

National Indian
Health Board

TRIBAL HEALTH DATA SYMPOSIUM

AT&T FORUM | 601 New Jersey
Ave NW, Washington, DC, 20001

MARCH 4 & 5, 2025





AGENDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

8:30am

Breakfast and Check-In

9:00am

Welcome Prayer and Opening Remarks

A.C. Locklear (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina), Interim CEO, National Indian Health Board (NIHB)

Dr. Rochelle Ruffer, Tribal Health Data Project Director, NIHB

9:25am

Circles Within Circles: Co-Creating Tribally Driven Research & Practice Agendas

Dr. Donald Warne (Oglala Lakota), Co-Director, Johns Hopkins University Center for Indigenous Health (JHU CIH)

Loretta Grey Cloud (Kul Wicasa Lakota and Hunkpati Dakota), Administrative Coordinator, JHU CIH

Brinda Sivaramakrishnan, Research Associate, JHU CIH

10:10am

CMS Tribal Data Learning Community (TDLC): Experiences from Two Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs)

“Leveraging CMS Platform and TDLC Training & Support for AI/AN Population Analysis in Medicare and Medicaid”

- **Dr. Ming Gong**, Biostatistician, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board

“Navigating the Data Landscape: GPTEC's Journey with CMS Data for AI/AN Population”

- **Dr. Cheng Wang**, Biostatistician, Great Plains Tribal Leaders' Health Board

10:45am

Morning Break

11:00am

Panel: Reforming Tribal Health Data Infrastructure

“Centering Tribal Sovereignty Throughout Data Integration: Addressing Biases in Data Systems and Practices”

- **Isabel Algrant**, Assistant Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy
- **Saundra Mitrovich** (Tyme and Yahomee Maidu), Civic Engagement Consultant, Native American Rights Fund

AGENDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

“Equipping Tribes to Use Data Systems to Achieve Health Priorities and Uphold Sovereignty”

- **Jessica Perfette** (Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama), Tribal Liaison, National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (NCFRP)
- **Gretchen Martin**, Technical Assistance Manager for Child Death Review and Fetal and Infant Mortality Review, NCFRP

“Measuring Impact, Sustaining Care: Data-Driven Strategies for Tribal Mobile Health Programs”

- **Kaitlyn Guild**, Manager of Evaluation and Strategic Relationships, Mobile Health Map
- **Elisa Garnenez** (Navajo/Diné), Patient Registration and Benefits Specialist, Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board Mobile Health Program

Moderator: Carrie Field, Senior Policy Analyst, NIHB

12:10pm

Lunch

1:10pm

Fireside Chat: Tribal Data Modernization Implementation Center

Speaker: Amanda Franklin, Senior Partnerships Manager, National Network of Public Health Institutes

Moderator: Sarah Price, Public Health Policy and Programs Associate Director, NIHB

1:30pm

Roundtable: Census Data

Jessica Imotichey (Chickasaw), Health Policy and Legislative Analyst, Chickasaw Nation Department of Health

Saundra Mitrovich (Tyme and Yahomee Maidu), Civic Engagement Consultant, Native American Rights Fund

Moderator: A.C. Locklear (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina), Interim CEO, NIHB

2:10pm

Poster Session and Afternoon Break

AGENDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

3:00pm

Interactive Session: Indigenous Evaluation Framework - Storytelling for Community, By Community

Lannesse Baker (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa), Public Health Associate Officer, Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI)

Banita McCarn (Koyukon Athabaskan), Evaluator II, UIHI

4:30pm

Adjourn



AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

8:30am

Breakfast

9:00am

Opening Remarks and Updates from NIHB

Dr. Rochelle Ruffer, Tribal Health Data Project Director, NIHB

Carrie Field, Senior Policy Analyst, NIHB

Jeannie Le, Tribal Health Data Project Analyst, NIHB

9:30am

Data Genocide- Missing, Murdered, Indigenous People (MMIP) Data- Where We Are and Where We Need to Go

Abigail Echo-Hawk (Pawnee), Director, Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI)

10:35am

Morning Break

10:50am

Panel: Using Data to Identify Gaps and Solutions

“Elder Data Collection in Our Communities and Urban Sites: Thirty Years of Best Practices”

- **Dr. Collette Adamsen** (Turtle Mountain Chippewa), Director, National Resource Center on Native American Aging (NRCNAA)
- **Elaina Seep**, Senior Policy Specialist, NRCNAA

“Estimating the Cost of Providing Comprehensive Healthcare Services through the Indian Health Service”

- **Joel Earlywine**, Health Researcher, Mathematica

“Development and Delivery of AI/AN Health Data to Northwest Tribes through State-wide Community Health Profiles”

- **Karuna Tirumala**, Chronic Disease and Cancer Epidemiologist, Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center

“Misreporting and Underreporting of AI/AN Data in Fatality Review”

- **Dr. Janelle Palacios** (Salish and Kootenai from Montana’s Flathead Indian Reservation), Founder, Encoded 4 Story

Moderator: Rochelle Ruffer, Tribal Health Data Project Director, NIHB

12:10pm

Lunch

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

1:10pm

Roundtable: Data Workforce

“2024 Public Health in Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS): A National Snapshot of the Capacity of Tribal Public Health Systems”

- **Dr. Jessica Dean**, Public Health Policy and Programs Manager, NIHB

“The Role of Tribal Colleges/Universities (TCUs) in Building the Tribal Health Data Workforce”

- **Ahniwake Rose** (Cherokee and Muscogee - Creek), CEO, American Indian Higher Education Consortium

“PHAB Accreditation and Our Data Journey”

- **Pam Thunder**, Environmental Health Program Manager, Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health

Moderator: Carrie Field, Senior Policy Analyst, NIHB

3:00pm

Afternoon Break

3:15pm

Electronic Case Reporting (eCR) for Tribes, TECs, and Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs)

Sophie Sembajwe, Public Health Policy and Programs Lead, NIHB
Myca Grant Hunthorp, Public Health Project Coordinator, National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH)

River Carroll (Cheyenne-Arapaho), Policy and Communications Associate, NCUIH

3:50pm

Fireside Chat: A New Legal Framework for Tribal Health Data Sharing: The Alaska Experience

Christine Alibrandi O'Connor, Managing Director and Owner, CAOC Consulting

Moderator: Carrie Field, Senior Policy Analyst, NIHB

4:15pm

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Dr. Rochelle Ruffer, Tribal Health Data Project Director, NIHB



SESSIONS

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

TITLE

DESCRIPTION

Circles Within Circles: Co-Creating Tribally Driven Research and Practice Agendas

This session will describe the Great Plains Initiative, an example of community-based research that can support the advancement of data sovereignty in Tribal and Urban Indigenous behavioral health programs. The research team will summarize a Tribally Driven data dissemination process to inform other researchers and Tribal health programs on building culturally responsive priorities that increase data sovereignty and self-determination.

CMS Tribal Data Learning Community (TDLC): Experiences from Two Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs)

This session will highlight experiences from the Tribal Data Learning Community (TDLC), a one-year pilot program to allow researchers at Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs) to use CMS data to assess Tribal community needs.

Panel: Reforming Tribal Health Data Infrastructure

This panel presentation will discuss how the design of data systems, data practices, and other data infrastructure have created systemic barriers to Tribal public health practice and explore a range of solutions.

Fireside Chat: Tribal Data Modernization Implementation Center

Learn about the upcoming Tribal Data Modernization Implementation Center and how it can support Tribal data needs through training and resources.

Roundtable: Census Data

This session will provide Tribal-specific updates and recommendations from the 2030 Census Advisory Group.

Interactive Session: Indigenous Evaluation Framework - Storytelling for Community, By Community

UIHI collaborated with 18 urban Indian organizations (UIOs) to create an Indigenous Evaluation (IE) Framework. This framework empowers urban AI/AN communities to reclaim their own stories and assert Indigenous values and sovereignty through evaluation. During this session, participants will learn to apply UIHI's IE framework within projects, programs and initiatives run by Tribal governments, public health departments, and organizations.



SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

TITLE

DESCRIPTION

Updates from NIHB

Learn about the work NIHB is doing across various domains to advance and protect Tribal health.

Data Genocide- Missing, Murdered, Indigenous People (MMIP) Data- Where We Are and Where We Need to Go

In 2024 UIHI released a report that exemplifies how to conduct research and gather data from the families and community members affected by the MMIP crisis. By prioritizing justice, healing, and equity, this presentation seeks to empower Indigenous communities to advocate for better data practices and drive meaningful improvements in Tribal health equity through specific and actionable change.

Using Data to Identify Gaps and Solutions Panel

This series of presentations will highlight recent efforts to improve data quality and use data to identify needs, disparities, and opportunities in several high priority health areas.

Data Workforce Roundtable

This roundtable session will explore current state of Tribal data workforce, gaps that exist, and strategies for how Tribes can expand their capacity for data roles like epidemiology, statistics, and informatics. After the initial presentations, attendees will have an open discussion with the presenters on experiences related to efforts to improve Tribal data workforce capacity.

Electronic Case Reporting (eCR) for Tribes, TECs, and Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs)

This session will showcase the process of eCR implementation as a pathway to data modernization and strengthened disease surveillance, from a Tribal and UIO perspective. Successes, challenges and lessons learned through the process of implementing eCR will be explored.

Fireside Chat: A New Legal Framework for Tribal Health Data Sharing: The Alaska Experience

Learn about how the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and the Alaska State Division of Public Health recently applied a new approach and legal framework to achieve a data use agreement.



POSTERS

TITLE

PRESENTER

Best Practices for American Indian Alaska Native Data Collection

Lannesse Baker (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa), Public Health Associate Officer, Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI)

An Initial Step to Understand Cancer Care Services and Burdens Across Arizona Native Nations

Chassity Begay (Navajo/Diné), Research Coordinator, Center for Health Equity Research, Northern Arizona University

Assessing Tribal Health Organization (THO) Role in Data-Related Public Health Services through the 2023 Public Health in Indian Country Capacity Scan (PHICCS)

Jessica Dean, Public Health Policy and Programs Manager, National Indian Health Board (NIHB)

Voices of the Unseen: Community Informed Recommended Practices in Data Collection

Abigail Echo-Hawk (Pawnee), Executive Vice President, Seattle Indian Health Board and Director, UIHI

Tribal Data Sovereignty: A Summary of Structures, Systems, Principles, Laws and Related Resources – A Global Perspective

Amber Lyon, Assistant Professor, Master of Public Health Program, University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences

Bringing Together Indigenous Data Collection and Disease Prevention: Establishing A Tribal Injury Prevention Coalition

Elliot Moore, Injury Epidemiologist, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council

Centering Communities in Tribal Maternal Mortality Prevention

Preetha Raj, Public Health Policy and Programs Lead, NIHB

POSTERS

TITLE

PRESENTER

Electronic Case Reporting Roadmap for Tribes and TECs

Sophie Sembajwe, Public Health Policy and Programs Lead, NIHB

Clinical Trials Network Great Plains Initiative: A Tribal Participatory Approach to Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorder in Great Plains Tribal Communities

Brinda Sivaramakrishnan, Research Associate, Johns Hopkins University Center for Indigenous Health



SPEAKERS

**Collette Adamsen (Turtle Mountain Chippewa)**

Director, National Resource Center on Native American Aging (NRCNAA)

Dr. Collette Adamsen is the director of the National Resource Center on Native American Aging (NRCNAA) and serves as an associate director for the Center for Rural Health (CRH) at the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS). Dr. Adamsen is also an assistant professor at the SMHS. Collette provides grant project direction and leadership, conducts research on health disparities among American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian elders throughout the nation, manages data for the NRCNAA, and functions as an American Indian content specialist. Collette received a Bachelor of Arts in economics, a Master of Public Administration, with an emphasis in health administration, and holds her doctorate in educational foundations and research.

**Isabel Algrant**

Assistant Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP)

Isabel Algrant is the Assistant Director of Training and Technical Assistance at AISP. She works with public sector partners across the country through our cohort-based TA and site consulting to help them create sustainable data governance and center community voice in their data sharing efforts. Before joining AISP, Isabel taught 8th grade Math and Science at the Dwight-Englewood School. She has served as an intern at the Philadelphia City Council and hosts the "Why Are My Students Acting Like Children?" podcast. Isabel earned her master's in social policy and data analytics from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice (SP2) and has a BA in Government and Theater from Wesleyan University.

**Christine Alibrandi O'Connor**

Managing Director and Owner, CAOC Consulting

Chris(tine) Alibrandi O'Connor is the Managing Director and Owner of CAOC Consulting, LLC, where she provides legal and management consulting services to public health agencies and projects on health data privacy laws, including training and facilitation on related topics. An area of her focus and expertise is data sharing between federal or state public health authorities and Tribal public health authorities. She previously served as a Deputy Director at The Network for Public Health Law where her focus was similarly facilitating the use and disclosure of data for public health purposes. Earlier, Chris served as privacy legal counsel and director of solutions integration on a Medicaid waiver demonstration project focused on health data reporting and health data sharing across sectors. She also served as the health policy director and HIPAA privacy officer for a dental insurance company during the early implementation period of the Affordable Care Act.

SPEAKERS



Lannesse Baker (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa)

Public Health Associate Officer, Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI)

Lannesse is the Research and Evaluation Director at the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI). She received her MPH at the University of Minnesota and is currently a PhD candidate in Indigenous Health at the University of North Dakota. Lannesse has a history of working in partnership with tribal and urban community leaders, striving to ensure that her work brings tangible benefits to the AI/AN people. Lannesse has experience managing NIH- and CDC- funded multi-site health research and evaluation projects, including projects designed to alleviate health disparities in commercial tobacco use, cancer, and organ donation among AIAN people. Lannesse is active in community service with an emphasis on addressing social determinants of health and Indigenous maternal child health. Other interests include mixed methods, social determinants of Indigenous health, participatory action research, strengths-based approaches, knowledge mobilization, health policy, Indigenous Data Sovereignty, and tribal regulation of research.



River Carroll (Cheyenne-Arapaho)

Policy and Communications Associate, National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH)

River Carroll (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes) is a Communications Associate at the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH), where he develops strategic messaging to advance policies that strengthen health resources for urban Native communities. His work focuses on advocacy, digital engagement, and amplifying Native-led solutions to address systemic challenges. With a background in policy and communications, River supports initiatives that uplift Tribal sovereignty and ensure urban Native voices are centered in national conversations.



Jessica Dean

Public Health Policy and Programs Manager, National Indian Health Board (NIHB)

Jessica Dean is a Program Manager with the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) where she manages initiatives that support Tribal public health capacity building through performance and systems improvement strategies. She works closely with Tribal public health departments, coordinating learning communities, technical assistance and funding opportunities in support of public health program efficiency and/or advancement toward national public health accreditation recognition. Jessica also manages NIHB's national Tribal assessment and environmental scan on the state of public health programming, services, workforce and capacity in Indian Country (PHICCS).

SPEAKERS



Joel Earlywine

Health Researcher, Mathematica

Joel Earlywine is a quantitative researcher at Mathematica who primarily uses statistical modeling to highlight and understand the health care needs of various populations. He is the lead statistician and project manager on the project estimating full funding for comprehensive healthcare services for American Indian and Alaska Natives. He is also project director of a data analytics project calculating Vermont's total cost of care and conducting a series of analyses to understand the health care needs of Vermonters and identify policy solutions. Mr. Earlywine has a Master of Science in health services and systems research from Boston University School of Public Health.



Abigail Echo-Hawk (Pawnee)

Director, Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI)

Labeled the “[Unapologetic Auntie of Indigenous Data](#)” by the New York Times, Abigail Echo-Hawk is a national leader in public health research and the decolonization of data. She is revolutionizing the integration of Indigenous knowledge within public health systems and reshaping how governments, institutions, and medical professionals approach health for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Echo-Hawk's groundbreaking research and tireless advocacy around violence against Indigenous women have spurred policy changes across all levels of government. As a leading voice in the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) crisis, she co-authored a report that brought national attention to the data issues and the staggering number of MMIWG cases in 71 urban cities across the U.S. A proud citizen of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, Echo-Hawk is the executive vice president of Seattle Indian Health Board and director of its research division, Urban Indian Health Institute.



Carrie Field

Senior Policy Analyst, National Indian Health Board (NIHB)

Carrie Field, MPH, serves as a Senior Policy Analyst at NIHB, focusing on the use of policy to advance health equity for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Prior to NIHB, Ms. Field worked at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan as a regional community health coordinator where she conducted rural, cross-sector Community Health Assessments. Previously, Ms. Field worked as a graduate student intern with the Public Health Law Program within the Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ms. Field completed her Master of Public Health with a concentration in Public Health Policy from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. She also holds a Bachelor of Social Work from Calvin University.

SPEAKERS



Amanda Franklin

Senior Partnerships Manager, National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI)

Amanda Franklin, MHA, MPH, CHES is a Senior Program Manager – Partner Relationships within the Data Modernization portfolio at the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) where she supports in the management of projects under the Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) Data Modernization Implementation Center program, including the upcoming Tribal Implementation Center. She is responsible for establishing and maintaining relationships with key partners across the network and beyond to ensure the development of high-quality deliverables that support the mission of NNPHI and the Data Modernization portfolio. Amanda's passion for public health and being of service to others comes from her upbringing. Growing up in southern Louisiana, she experienced firsthand the differences in access and opportunities based on the community you live in. This experience continues to motivate her to pursue improving the infrastructure in rural and minority communities.



Elisa Garnenez (Navajo/Diné)

Patient Registration and Benefits Specialist, Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board Mobile Health Program

Elisa Garnenez has dedicated over 30 years to the healthcare field, gaining extensive experience across multiple disciplines, including work as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), and in home health care, Health Information Management (HIM), hospice care, and laboratory services. For the past seven years, she has been a vital member of the Mobile Health Program at Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board in Fort Defiance, AZ, where she plays a key role in delivering accessible healthcare to communities on the Navajo Nation.



Ming Gong

Biostatistician, Albuquerque Area Indian Health Board (AAIHB)

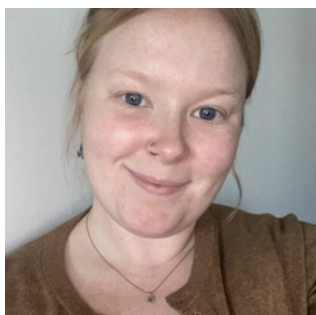
Dr. Ming Gong is a Biostatistician at the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (AASTECC), where he provides training and support in statistical methodology and data analysis. With a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics, he has over a decade of experience in large data analytics, statistical modeling, and programming to support public health research and tribal community initiatives. Dr. Gong previously worked as a Research Scientist at the University of California, Santa Barbara (2015–2017), focusing on statistical modeling of microbiological structures, and as a Scientist at the University of New Mexico (2017–2019), specializing in geospatial data modeling. Since 2018, he has served as an Instructor and Consultant at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), helping develop data science and computer science programs to support tribal education and research.

SPEAKERS



Loretta Grey Cloud (Kul Wicasa Lakota and Hunkpati Dakota)
Administrative Coordinator, Johns Hopkins University Center for Indigenous Health

Loretta is Kul Wicasa Lakota and Hunkpati Dakota. Her primary role is supporting Co-Director Dr. Donald Warne with academic and administrative tasks including building a Global Indigenous Health Researchers platform and Indigenous DrPH program. Loretta has experience working both on and off the reservation, in different professional capacities. Most recently she assisted senior staff at the directors level at IHS Headquarters in the diversity equity and inclusion areas. Loretta also brings several years of experience in the biomedical research field at NIH specifically NIDCR, including 3 publications. Loretta states, “My professional network and compassionate demeanor for my AI people is what will propel me in this role. I believe the relationships we build are key to making the most impact.” Currently, Loretta manages and coordinates multiple projects at CIH.



Kaitlyn Guild
Manager of Evaluation and Strategic Partnerships, Mobile Health Map

Kait Guild is a dedicated public health professional committed to advancing health equity and addressing systemic barriers to care. With a background in anthropology and gender and sexuality studies from Haverford College, she serves as the Manager of Evaluation for Mobile Health Map, where she leads and supports evaluation efforts for mobile health programs nationwide. Kait’s work is rooted in community engagement and informed by her experiences as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, a direct service worker for neurodivergent adults, and her involvement in medical-legal-community partnerships within federally qualified health centers.



Myca Grant Hunthorp
Public Health Project Coordinator, National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH)

Myca Grant Hunthorp has been working at NCUIH since July 2022 and in the field of public health since 2015. She graduated with her Master’s in Public Health from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in August 2020 with an emphasis on health behavior and health education. Throughout her career, she has maintained a focus on health equity and diversity as well as women’s health. She has co-authored a call to action for research involving telemedicine for gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary youth in the Journal for Transgender Health. She currently resides in Arkansas with her husband and their three fur-children.

SPEAKERS



Jessica Imotichey (Chickasaw)

Health Policy and Legislative Analyst, Chickasaw Nation Department of Health

Ms. Imotichey currently serves as the Health Policy and Legislative Analyst for the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health. She is an enrolled tribal citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. For more than 20 years, she has served in a variety of leadership positions across Indian Country with an emphasis on advocacy and equity. From 2016-2023, Ms. Imotichey's career included positions at the U.S. Census Bureau/Department of Commerce. In this capacity, her efforts focused on the tribal and congressional partnership programs in the Los Angeles Region, resulting in the formation of the first permanent Tribal Relations Program. She is an active data super user with exceptional expertise in Indigenous data sovereignty. Ms. Imotichey holds two graduate degrees from the University of Oklahoma (OU), an MLS in Indigenous People's Law from the OU College of Law and an MPH in Health Administration & Policy from the OU Health Sciences Center.



Jeannie Le

Tribal Health Data Project Analyst, National Indian Health Board (NIHB)

Jeannie Le is Tribal Health Data Project Analyst for the National Indian Health Board (NIHB). At NIHB, she analyzes and visualizes Tribal health data to develop reports, presentations, and dashboards. Currently, her main projects include estimating health insurance enrollment for AI/ANs and assessing Tribal data needs to develop a potential, future National Secure Data Service (NSDS). Prior to her position at NIHB, she served as an Epidemiologist for the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center (GLITEC). She attended Brown University for her undergraduate and graduate degree, where she earned a Master of Public Health in Applied Epidemiology and Biostatistics in 2021.

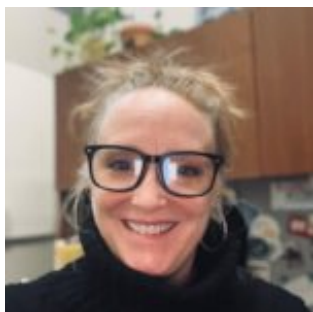


AC Locklear (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina)

Interim CEO, National Indian Health Board (NIHB)

A.C. Locklear, (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina) is the Interim CEO of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB). He is dedicated to leading with integrity, promoting sustainability in Indian health, and fostering collaboration among Tribes and Native organizations for lasting positive impact. Previously, as NIHB's Federal Relations Director, A.C. led federal budget and regulatory policy priorities, advancing Tribal health policies to the White House and federal agencies. Notably, he built a coalition advocating for Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service, ensuring continuity of healthcare programs during government shutdowns. A.C. holds a BA in American Studies and a JD from UNC Chapel Hill.

SPEAKERS



Gretchen Martin

Technical Assistance Manager, National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention

Gretchen Martin serves as the Technical Assistance (TA) Manager for Child Death Review (CDR) and Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR). As the TA Manager, Mrs. Martin supervises the programmatic team, provides technical assistance to fatality review teams nationwide, and leads fatality review collaboration projects. Prior to joining the National Center team, she worked in child welfare for two decades and spent nine years developing and overseeing CDR, FIMR, OFR, MMR, and child death scene investigation training for the state of Indiana. Mrs. Martin has an undergraduate degree in psychology and received her Master of Social Work from Indiana University.



Banita McCarn (Koyukon Athabascan)

Evaluator II, Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI)

Banita McCarn is Koyukon Athabascan, born on ancestral land in Fairbanks, Alaska, and currently residing as a guest on Coast Salish land in Seattle, Washington, where she is an Evaluator with the Urban Indian Health Institute. Her 15+ years of research and evaluation experience has evolved to include mixed methods of triangulated data from quantitative measures of change and qualitative richness from semi-structured interviews, focus groups and observations. Her work is grounded in lived experience as a mixed-race Indigenous woman. She centers collaborative, culturally attuned, strength-based approaches that uplift community wisdom and utilize evaluation as a tool for storytelling and learning. She is honored to work alongside partners on projects focused on improving collective health, healing, and equity.



Sandra Mitrovich (Tyme and Yahomee Maidu)

Civic Engagement Consultant, Native American Rights Fund (NARF)

Sandra Mitrovich she/her, Tyme and Yahomee Maidu, is a consultant for civic policy and advocacy with the Native American Rights Fund and Native Counts Coalition alongside National Native organizations and partners to strengthen voter access, education, and engagement across Indian Country and advancing AIAN data equity. In this role she serves in various task force groups to enhance and promote civic education, data collection, and election protection as part of NARF's mission to protect tribal sovereignty. Prior to her work at NARF, Sandra worked as the External Engagement Manager and Civic Participation lead advancing crucial policy initiatives focused on Census data equity and voting rights for AIAN people and Tribal Nations across Indian Country at the National Congress of American Indians. In addition to policy and advocacy, Sandra has worked for decades in higher education to develop and expand college and career pathway programs for AI/AN youth.

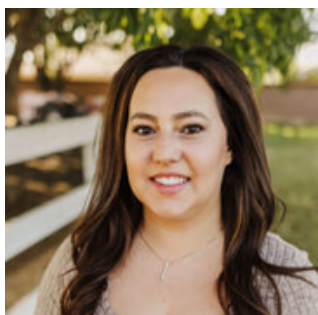
SPEAKERS



Janelle Palacios (Salish and Kootenai from Montana's Flathead Indian Reservation)

Founder, Encoded 4 Story

Dr. Janelle Palacios, Salish and Kootenai from Montana's Flathead Indian Reservation, is a nurse midwife and expert in American Indian/Alaska Native maternal and child health. A key author of the "Making Amends" report, she has served on HRSA's Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality. Founder of Encoded 4 Story, she consults on health equity, tribal partnerships, and storytelling for health improvement, collaborating with organizations like the CDC and National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention.



Jessica Perfette (Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama)

Tribal Liaison, National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention

Mrs. Perfette, a Tribal member from the Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama, serves as a Tribal Liaison for the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention, focusing on Indigenous communities. With a master's in public health, she has over six years of experience in child fatality review and is dedicated to improving health outcomes for marginalized populations. She has expertise in injury prevention, health promotion, and collaboration with health providers, community leaders, and policymakers.



Sarah Price

Public Health Policy and Programs Associate Director, National Indian Health Board (NIHB)

Sarah Price is the Associate Director of Public Health Policy and Programs with the National Indian Health Board (NIHB). Sarah provides leadership to her team through strategic planning, grant and program management, and staff development, and oversees teams working on projects related to public health infrastructure, disease surveillance, data modernization, and infectious and chronic disease prevention and control. Sarah has worked with NIHB for over seven years. Prior to working with NIHB, Sarah was a Public Health Associate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she worked on infectious and chronic disease prevention initiatives at a local health department. Sarah obtained her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from Columbia University, with a certificate in Infectious Disease Epidemiology, and her Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health and Policy Studies from Syracuse University.

SPEAKERS



Ahniwake Rose (Cherokee and Muscogee – Creek)

CEO, American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)

Ahniwake Rose is the President & CEO of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium. Ahniwake brings 20 years of experience in Tribal policy and mission-driven state, national, and Tribal nonprofit organizations. Prior to joining the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, Rose served as the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Policy Institute, a statewide think tank that works to advance equitable and fiscally responsible policies. The throughline of her career has been serving Indian Country, where she held the positions of Deputy Director at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and Executive Director at the National Indian Education Association (NIEA). A citizen of the Cherokee Nation and of Muscogee (Creek) descent, Rose serves on several education and youth-related boards and is a founding member of VEST, an Oklahoma-based organization dedicated to connecting women to positions of power and influence. Most importantly, she is the mother of two daughters, Waleah and Tanagila-win.



Rochelle Ruffer

Tribal Health Data Project Director, National Indian Health Board (NIHB)

Rochelle Ruffer, Ph.D. is the Tribal Health Data Project Director at the National Indian Health Board (NIHB). She serves many functions at NIHB including managing projects on estimating the full funding of the Indian Health Service (IHS), analyzing the data matched between IHS and Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), and estimating the insurance enrollment for American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN). She advocates for data access for Tribes and Tribal Epidemiology Centers (TECs). Prior to joining NIHB in January 2022, Rochelle served as an Economics faculty member for a total of 26 years.



Elaina Seep

Senior Policy Specialist, National Resource Center on Native American Aging (NRCNAA)

Elaina Seep is the senior policy specialist for the National Resource Center on Native American Aging (NRCNAA) and serves as the project coordinator for the new Resource Center for Native Aging and Disability (RCNAD). Elaina provides policy and program analytics as well as project management and oversight at the NRCNAA & RCNAD. She is a former subject matter expert to the Older Indians program at ACL/AoA and served as the policy/program analyst to Wisconsin's Money Follows the Person – Tribal Initiative demonstration funded by CMS. Elaina's educational background includes B.A. in history and legal studies and a Master of Legal Studies in Indian Law and Policy.

SPEAKERS



Sophie Sembajwe

Public Health Policy and Programs Lead, National Indian Health Board (NIHB)

Sophie Sembajwe is an NIHB Public Health Policy and Programs Project Lead focused on disease surveillance, data modernization and public health infrastructure strengthening. Sophie has more than ten years of experience as an epidemiologist/data analyst, health informatics specialist, and research coordinator at various public health, non-profit, research and government institutions. She also has prior experience working in the areas of clinical infection prevention and children's environmental health. Sophie received her Master of Science in Public Health Microbiology and Infectious Diseases from George Washington University.



Brinda Sivaramakrishnan

Research Associate, Johns Hopkins University Center for Indigenous Health

Brinda Sivaramakrishnan, MPH, CHES, is a Research Associate at JHU CIH. Brinda brings experience from working as a Tribal Epidemiologist, As a consultant with Indigenous health projects, and Community Health Faculty, and concurrently pursuing a PhD from University of North Dakota in Indigenous Health. Brinda's interests include community-based participatory research, access to infrastructure and healthcare, and planetary health globally. Brinda received her BA/BS in Environmental studies and Biology at The Evergreen State College, and Master of Public Health with a focus on Forced Migration and Health at Columbia University. Brinda is of Tamil heritage and a yoga teacher in her spare time. She is honored to work with Indigenous communities and loves the creative aspects of research.



Pam Thunder

Environmental Health Program Manager, Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health

Pamela Thunder is an Environmental Health Program Manager and registered Tribal Sanitarian for the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health. Pamela has been working in this role for 21 years conducting health inspections, implementing institutional environmental health and safety at two Tribal clinics, and implementing injury prevention programs. Pamela began working on Public Health Accreditation in 2010. In her roles as Accreditation Coordinator Pamela has assisted in completing the Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan, Work Force Development Plan, Strategic Plan and Performance Management/Quality Improvement Plan. The Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health received initial PHAB accreditation in August 2022 and was the third Tribe in Wisconsin to attain this achievement. Pamela currently lives in the Black River Falls, Wisconsin with her husband and two children. In her free time she enjoys traveling with her family, boating on the lake, live music, running, and watching the kids play sports!

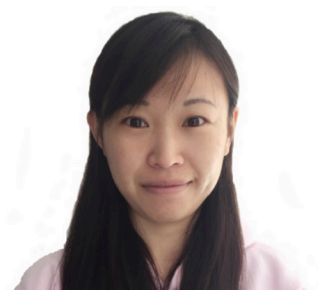
SPEAKERS



Karuna Tirumala

Chronic Disease and Cancer Epidemiologist, Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (NWTEC)

Karuna Tirumala is a chronic disease and cancer epidemiologist for the Epi and Surveillance Unit at the Northwest Tribal EpiCenter and has been serving tribes in the northwest for the past 6 years. She assists with linkages and data management, conducts analyses relevant to tribal interests, and offers technical assistance to tribal partners. She has a particular interest in women's cancers and spends her free time hiking and dancing.



Cheng Wang

Biostatistician, Great Plains Tribal Leaders' Health Board (GPTLHB)

Dr. Cheng Wang is a biostatistician at the Great Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center, specializing in analyzing complex health data to support public health decision-making. With expertise in clinical practice, research, data science, and health informatics, Dr. Wang is committed to using data-driven insights to improve health outcomes and address health disparities. Her work focuses on translating data into actionable recommendations that inform community health initiatives and promote overall well-being.



Donald Warne (Oglala Lakota)

Co-Director, Johns Hopkins University Center for Indigenous Health

Donald Warne, MD, MPH, joined the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health as Co-Director on September 1, 2022. He is an acclaimed physician, one of the world's preeminent scholars in Indigenous health, health education, policy and equity as well as a member of the Oglala Lakota tribe from Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Dr. Warne will also serve as Johns Hopkins University's new Provost Fellow for Indigenous Health Policy. Warne comes from a long line of traditional healers and medicine men, and is a celebrated researcher of chronic health inequities. He is also an educational leader who created the first Indigenous health-focused Master of Public Health and PhD programs in the U.S. or Canada. Warne received a Doctor of Medicine degree from Stanford University's School of Medicine, and a Master of Public Health degree from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



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