



## CBPR Partnership Academy: 2017-2018 Cohort

### CALIFORNIA

#### Madera County Public Health Department & the University of California Merced

The partnership between the Madera County Public Health Department (MCPHD) and University of California (UC) Merced focuses on serving and empowering the indigenous Oaxacan community that has settled in Madera County. The partnership seeks to strengthen current partnerships with the Oaxacan community and together develop workable solutions to improve the social and individual determinants of health in the Oaxacan community. MCPHD has identified mental health, substance abuse, diabetes and obesity, and child abuse and neglect as the four broad priority areas for improvement. Rather than using the traditional method of developing scopes of work in isolation to address these priorities, our partnership's ultimate goal is to use community-based participatory research (CBPR) precepts to engage our Oaxacan community partners in developing long-term solutions driven by community interest and support. One of our initial aims is to seek funding for an engagement project that will build the foundation for our work with the Oaxacan community.

- **Van Do-Reynoso** has been serving as Public Health Director in Madera County since 2011. Her department is committed to protecting the health of Madera County by preventing disease and promoting health equity using policy, system, and environmental change.
- **Mariaelena Gonzalez** is an Assistant Professor in Public Health at UC Merced and is one of the founding members of this department. She received her PhD in Sociology from Stanford University and completed a postdoc at the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education at the University of California, San Francisco.

#### Health Trust & Santa Clara University

Outreach and retention of participants, especially those living with chronic health conditions, in evidence-based programs, has been a significant challenge for community-based organizations. Furthermore, there has not been sufficient community-driven research to identify successful strategies addressing this challenge. Thus, this new CBPR partnership emerges from this shared interest in culturally relevant work with 'hard to reach' populations. The team's overall goal is to develop effective culturally-relevant strategies to improve recruitment and retention for The Health Trust's ongoing Chronic Disease and Diabetes Self-Management programs (CDSMP and DSMP). This encompasses: 1) learning and applying CBPR principles to identify cultural and structural factors shaping recruitment and retention to health education programs (i.e., CDSMP and DSMP); 2) examining how those cultural factors shape recruitment and retention; and 3) designing and evaluating theoretically and community informed strategies to increase recruitment and retention.

- **Anamaria Bejarano** holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with a concentration in Social and Behavioral Sciences from Boston University. She has served as a program coordinator at The Health Trust, leading the expansion of our evidence-based programs across Northern California.

- **Sonja Mackenzie** is Assistant Professor of Public Health at Santa Clara University (SCU). Her community-engaged scholarship focuses on intersections of gender and sexuality, racism and health in the United States. Her book, *Structural Intimacies: Sexual Stories in the Black AIDS Epidemic*, was published by Rutgers University Press in 2013. Her public health teaching and advocacy focuses on structural and policy changes for racial justice and health equity.
- **Jamie Chang** earned her PhD in Sociology from the University of California, San Francisco, and recently joined the Public Health faculty at SCU as an Assistant Professor. She has worked with Bay Area homelessness and substance use treatment organizations for over a decade using research approaches focused on community representation and engagement. Recently, she developed an innovative participant-guided walking methodology called the “docent method” that draws on CBPR approach.

## Fighting Back Partnership & Touro University California

Since 2009, Touro University California (TUC) Public Health Program and Fighting Back Partnership (FBP) Vallejo have partnered on teaching MPH classes and providing applied work practice opportunities in the community for MPH students. Approximately twice per year, FBP staff provides lectures and related training and supervision for students in TUC MPH classes. This is an opportunity to reinforce how community change theories and concepts relate to the specific activities and objectives of FBP community initiatives. FBP is an active member of TUC MPH Program’s Community Advisory Council, and a TUC MPH faculty member is on FBP Board. They envision the following goals for their proposed CBPR partnership: 1) increase the capacity of TUC Public Health Program and FBP staff to apply CBPR goals, methods, and practices; 2) use CBPR to more effectively engage the Vallejo community in assessing and prioritizing community change initiatives; 3) increase authentic and equitable partnerships working collaboratively on strategies to address healthy equity; 4) promote community-academic collaboration and community capacity focused on health equity; and 5) increase level of civic engagement among community members in Vallejo to understand and address health inequities.

- **Mark Mora**, Civic Engagement Director, Fighting Back Partnership Vallejo, earned a Bachelor’s degree in Communications from the University of California, San Diego. He oversees programs and initiatives at Fighting Back Partnership, a nonprofit in Vallejo that focus on health equity, youth development, and civic engagement.
- **Annette Aalborg**, DrPH, Professor and Chair of Community Health, Touro University California Public Health Program, earned her DrPH from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health. She is a Professor and Chair of the Community Health Track in the Master of Public Health Program at Touro University California in Vallejo where she conducts community-based research collaborating with schools and community organizations locally and internationally and mentors students.

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## CONNECTICUT

### Junta for Progressive Action & Southern Connecticut State University

Juntos Podemos is a collaboration between Junta for Progressive Action, a community-based advocacy and direct service agency that has worked with New Haven’s residents, immigrants, and Spanish-speaking communities for over 48 years, and Southern Connecticut State, a student-centered university dedicated to academic excellence, access, social justice, and service for the public good. The goals of this project are to use the CBPR process to empower New Haven’s Latino communities, shed light on health issues among Latinos in New Haven’s Fair Haven neighborhood, and build a cornerstone for future collaboration between Junta and Southern. There is a long history of researchers in New Haven conducting studies about the city’s vulnerable populations. This project seeks to shift this dynamic by allowing Latino residents, including monolingual and undocumented people, to pose and answer

questions about their own community. Sandra and Amy have been colleagues and friends for over 10 years and look forward to continuing to strengthen and build their relationship through this innovative training and research experience.

- **Sandra Trevino**, LCSW, has been the Executive Director of Junta for Progressive Action since 2007. She oversees all programs, including community collaborations with local universities.
- **Amy Smoyer**, MSW, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Southern CT State University. Her social work practice and program of research focuses on the lived experience of incarceration and the impact of this experience on psycho-social and health outcomes.

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## GEORGIA

### **Redemption & Advancement Alliance, Inc. & Morehouse School of Medicine Prevention Research Center**

The goal of the CBPR partnership between the Redemption & Advancement Alliance, Inc. and the Morehouse

School of Medicine Prevention Research Center is to conduct CBPR related to men's health in our targeted communities in Atlanta, GA, along with establishing and maintaining a strategic focus for intervention. Some objectives are to: promote a co-learning and empowering process that attends to the social and health inequities that men face; integrate their knowledge and action for the mutual benefit of all partners; conduct projects as identified through this partnership; and create the evidence to support the men's health interventions and policies that reduce inequities in our target community.

- **Thomas Cotton** is the founder and CEO of Redemption & Advancement Alliance, Inc., an organization that provides services and exposure to new forms of access, which have helped thousands of incarcerated, formerly incarcerated, and at-risk people build better futures regardless of their past. He has almost 20 years of experience in training/coaching people to transform their lives by helping them identify the real issues and challenging them to make changes in their thinking and actions so their lives become significantly better.
- **Latrice Rollins**, PhD, MSW, is the Assistant Director of Evaluation and Institutional Assessment at Morehouse School of Medicine Prevention Research Center. She provides evaluation management and support for academic and community-based programs focused on public health research infrastructure, workforce development, and reducing health disparities.

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## MICHIGAN

### **Arab Community Center for Economic & Social Services & Michigan State University**

This CBPR partnership represents the collaboration of Dr. Kaston D. Anderson-Carpenter, Assistant Professor of Psychology from Michigan State University, and Mona Abdallah-Hijazi, Public Health Coordinator from the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS). The main objectives of their partnership are to conduct research and gather data on substance abuse in the Arab American Community in Southeast Michigan, identify factors that contribute to elevated substance abuse in aforementioned community, and integrate the academic partner's research expertise with the community partner's experience and knowledge of the Arab American Community to develop and implement a promising, culturally appropriate research study. The knowledge, skills, and capabilities gained are expected to strengthen the existing community-academic partner relationship. The additional training and mentorship in using diverse research methodologies within a CBPR context will inform how the partnership will collect data on substance use in their community focus. Their long-term goal is to be

able to disseminate their research to individuals and sectors within the Arab American Community, to the scientific community, and to policy makers who may serve as advocates for the Community.

- **Mona Abdallah-Hijazi**, Public Health Coordinator from the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services. She leads the ACCESS Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Community Coalition, and has an MBA in Healthcare Administration.
- **Kaston D. Anderson-Carpenter**, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Michigan State University. He is a behavioral community psychologist and Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and studies health disparities in underserved communities.

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## MISSOURI

### Pemiscot County Outreach Center & Saint Louis University College for Public Health and Social Justice

With a working title of “*Building Positive Youth Development and Wellness in Southeast Missouri*,” this rural/urban, community-academic partnership seeks to expand the life choices and improve the life chances of high needs youth in Pemiscot County, Missouri by: 1) actively engaging Pemiscot County youth in ongoing explorations of the challenges they face and the opportunities they seek; 2) strengthening existing partnerships with existing programs and resources in the community, and seeking out additional partnerships to address the felt needs of Pemiscot County youth; and, 3) developing interventions to enhance youth skills and empowering them to take their places in the community as contributing citizens.

- **Deborah A. Jones** is the Director of Outreach, Community Support Center in Caruthersville, MO.
- **Stephanie M. McClure** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Behavioral Science/Health Education at Saint Louis University’s College for Public Health and Social Justice.

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## NEW YORK

### The Family Center & Columbia University

The Family Center and the Social Intervention Group at Columbia University School of Social Work will work together to address the challenges of justice involving individuals, families, and communities in New York City. Their partnership’s goal, which is aligned with their Community Collaborative Research Network’s mission, is to strengthen community-researcher collaboration through training, education, research, and advocacy in order to inform and shape evidence-based, sustainable solutions to HIV, violence, substance use, mental health, and other co-occurring issues.

- **Vivian L. Presley** serves as Community Outreach Specialist and for The Family Center in Brooklyn, New York. She has worked for this organization since 2013. Vivian has a bachelor’s degree in Theology from the International Theological Seminary of California.
- **Dawn Goddard-Eckrich** holds a doctoral degree in Health and Behavioral Studies from Columbia University and is an Associate Research Scientist at the Social Intervention Group. Her research interests include health disparities, social determinants of health, CBPR, and linkage to care.
- **Susan Poznyansky** serves as Coordinator for the Community Collaborative Research Network at the Social Intervention Group. She received a Master’s degree in Social Work from Columbia University with a focus on family, youth, and children’s services and a Bachelor’s in Liberal

Studies from Antioch University Seattle with a focus on Educational Leadership for Environmental and Social Justice.

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## NORTH CAROLINA

### Orange County Department on Aging & University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The Orange County Department on Aging and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will work together to learn and apply CBPR principles to address health disparities among rural older adults and older adults of color, living in Orange County, North Carolina. Orange County has a thriving, racially, and geographically diverse population of older adults. However, many of its rural residents, and residents of color, disproportionately experience the repercussions of adverse health effects such as loneliness, social isolation, and chronic diseases as a result of gaps in services (e.g., access and availability to nutritious food, transportation, and social connectivity). Thus, this partnership's main objectives are: 1) to use CBPR to engage older adults in the development, implementation, and evaluation of innovative interventions that aim to address health issues and the underlying determinants they deem important; 2) to monitor and evaluate their CBPR processes to develop systematic CBPR models for engaging older adults in Orange County and in similar settings; and 3) to enrich and encourage the intersection of aging and CBPR research while simultaneously impacting the well-being of older adults.

- **Yvette Garcia Missri** holds an MPH in Health Behavior from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, and a J.D. from Boston College. Yvette serves as the Manager of several community-based and peer-to-peer, volunteer led programs at the Orange County Department on Aging (OCDoA) in North Carolina. Prior to her public health training, Yvette worked as a gender-based violence trial attorney for approximately 11 years.
- **Tiffany L. Young** holds a PhD in Aging Studies and a Cognate in Evaluation from the University of South Florida. She is a postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Health Equity Research and the North Carolina Translational Research and Clinical Sciences Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her current research interest includes using community-engaged approaches to involve older adults in the design, implementation, and evaluation of interventions that address broad community health issues.

### Communities in Partnership & University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

This CBPR team represents the collaboration between Camryn Smith, the Director of Communities in Partnership (CIP), and Dr. Danielle Spurlock, Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The goal of their initial collaboration was to create a framework that facilitates the assemblage and synthesis of technical and local information in a community vulnerable to gentrification and displacement. Given the inextricable link between health, community well-being, and economic development, this team sees CBPR as a sustainable way to move forward in our partnership. The knowledge and skills gained during the Academy will support ongoing efforts to understand the interplay between health outcomes, gentrification, and community development interventions. Additionally, their participation could help alter “parachute” research into marginalized communities throughout Chapel Hill and Durham as they model a different way for academic researchers to work with communities.

- **Camryn Smith**, Director of Communities In Partnership, oversees and organizes community-based events, education processes, community development and organizing for addressing policy and systemic inequity for communities of color and materially poor peoples within their community in East Durham.
- **Danielle Spurlock** is Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her work focuses on plan and policy implementation and addresses

policy questions in the areas of planning, public health, environmental and social justice, and dispute resolution.

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## TEXAS

### Alcohol/Drug Abuse Women's Center & the University of Texas

Ellie Hanley and Cara Pennel have known one another since 2015. They are both members of Research Education and Community Health (REACH), a Galveston County coalition comprised of approximately 40 community-based organizations and 20 UTMB departments, programs, and centers. At this time, their team's primary objective for the CBPR Partnership Academy is not necessarily to address a specific community issue or problem. They want to share the knowledge and skills they gain to help facilitate opportunities for co-learning, collaborative funding, and data sharing, as well as to build organizational and community competencies and capacities for CBPR methods among community and academic entities in Galveston and Galveston County.

- **Ellie Hanley** has been the Executive Director of the Alcohol/Drug Abuse Women's Center (ADA House), a 14-bed residential substance abuse treatment program for women in coastal Texas, since 2000. She has a degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University. In addition to being a REACH member, she also serves on the board of a local non-profit mutual assistance organization.
  - **Cara Pennel** holds a Doctor of Public Health degree in Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences from the Texas A&M School of Public Health. She is currently an Assistant Professor and Director, Public Health Practice in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at the University of Texas Medical Branch, where she has been since 2015. She aims to incorporate community-based public health practice into all aspects of her work: teaching, research, and service.
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## WASHINGTON

### Delridge Grocery Cooperative & Seattle University

The Delridge Grocery Cooperative (DGC) and Seattle University (SU) are partnering to conduct CBPR to create a food justice partnership for the Delridge Neighborhood of Seattle. In this project, we seek to better understand how we can partner with communities in our diverse neighborhood to prioritize food justice. First, we will strengthen our relationship with each other and build capacity. Ultimately, we hope to lay the foundation to begin a food justice partnership between the DGC, the academic partner, and other community-based organizations in the neighborhood.

- **Ranette Iding**, ESD, is a founding member and current vice-president of the Delridge Grocery Cooperative in Seattle, WA. Currently, she is working to improve her community's access to fair and equitable healthy food opportunities while learning about cooperative economies.
- **Jason E. Miller**, PhD, MPH is a Senior Instructor of Anthropology at Seattle University. His work is focused on storytelling, media, and health with immigrant populations.