



CBPR PARTNERSHIP ACADEMY: 2021 COHORT

ALABAMA

Birthwell Partners & University of Alabama

Birthwell Partners Community Doula Project (BWP) and the University of Alabama are partnering to co-create meaningful research that can improve perinatal health for underserved, Medicaid eligible pregnant people in West-Central Alabama. The primary focus of this partnership will be the doulas and families who provide/utilize BWP services in this region. Our first goal is to co-create community-driven, mixed methods research that demonstrates how doulas are helpful in improving clinical care outcomes and to increase the utilization of essential health and support services. Secondly, we aspire to improve community health and social support services by centering the shared perspectives and lived experiences of pregnant individuals and families utilizing doula care provided through BWP. Third, and finally, we strive to promote BWP as a resource for understanding the importance of non-clinical aspects of perinatal care such as perceived experiences of respect and autonomy for all pregnant individuals and families.

- **Dalia Abrams** is a doula, childbirth educator and doula trainer. Her Master's Degree in Public health informs her work; centered on helping birth givers realize their strength and use their voice during pregnancy, labor, birth and beyond, to ensure healthier babies and parents and a stronger community.
- **Holly Horan** is a medical anthropologist and doula. Her research interests include the intersection of stress experienced by pregnant/birthing people and birth outcomes and the scaling up of perinatal care via the promotion of doulas as members of the maternity care team.

INDIANA

Martinsville Indiana Superfund Site Association & Purdue University

Martinsville Indiana Superfund Site Association & the Community Environmental Health Lab at Purdue University School of Health Sciences will work together to explore how short and long-term exposures to chemical contaminants affect community health and dynamics due to adverse health effects of the exposure, as well as impacts upon the quality of life, educational opportunities, and financial investments and development in the community. Our partnership's goal is to develop a forceful and integrated voice for a community that has had no voice not just for itself but for the 1,000's of other towns across America that find themselves in similar situations.

- **Tom Wallace** is a retired Rockwell International environmental engineer, anthropologist, and founder of the Martinsville Superfund Site Association who has striven to create a focused social vector for community awareness of the health hazards, inequities, and fundamental environmental injustice issues facing the Martinsville community. He is active in local politics and has run as a candidate for Mayor of Martinsville and Indiana State Senate, District 37.
 - **Sa Liu** is an Assistant Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Health Sciences at Purdue University's College of Health and Human Sciences.
-

MASSACHUSETTS

Asian Women for Health & Tufts University School of Medicine

Asian Women for Health (AWFH) and Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM) will work together to improve the health and wellness of under-resourced and under-reached Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) populations in the Greater Boston area. As a pan-Asian, cross-generational organization, AWFH's network is racially, linguistically, and economically diverse, including members with varying levels of ability/disability, immigration status, age, and educational achievement. The goal of our partnership is to bridge the unique strengths, resources, and perspectives that community-based organizations and academic institutions each offer to develop and implement innovative, evidence-based solutions for community-identified priority problems, through shared decision-making and co-learning.

- **Chien-Chi Huang** is the founder of the **Asian Breast Cancer Project** and the Executive Director of **Asian Women for Health**. Ms. Huang's personal cancer journey led her to participate in national as well as local efforts on health equity and racial justice. Her remarkable passion for the community has changed the healthcare landscape for Asian women and created a pipeline of future leaders and peer health educators.
 - **Alice Tang** received her PhD in infectious disease epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and is currently Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine at TUSM. Her research career has largely focused on the causes and consequences of nutritional and metabolic abnormalities in people living with HIV globally, but the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding rise in anti-Asian sentiment has motivated her to turn her attention to the needs of the local AAPI community.
-

MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota Extension/Supplemental Nutrition Program & Mayo Clinic Health System

The partnership between the University of Minnesota Extension/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Mayo Clinic Health System (MCHS) focuses on the health inequities that have come to light during the COVID-19 pandemic in Blue Earth County, MN. This collaboration seeks to use the principles of CBPR to develop a sustainable framework for communication, education, and engagement with our community's vulnerable populations, thereby lending a community voice and identifying community solutions to issues of health equity. We look forward to using data to drive social change, specifically addressing COVID-19 vaccine confidence and other social determinants of health, such as food scarcity, that have deteriorated in the setting of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Rachel Jones** is the SNAP-Ed Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension in Mankato, MN. Rachel's interests include food security, food waste and nutrition for low income populations.
- **Erin Westfall, DO**, is the Associate Program Director and Assistant Professor of Family Medicine for the University of Minnesota/Mayo Clinic Health System Family Medicine Residency Program in Mankato, MN. Dr. Westfall's research interests center on issues of health equity and healthcare access in rural, underserved populations.

MISSISSIPPI

Amethyst at Five Points and Jackson State University

The goal of this partnership is to determine the best use for 8.5 acres of newly acquired land. Broader resident input will help identify and build upon existing assets. CBPR is essential to the facilitation of this process. It will encourage proposals for redeveloping the 8.5 acres into a usable, environmentally safe public space that reflects the community's character and honors its historic significance.

- **Wanda J. Keahey, PharmD, MPH** is currently a Coordinator in the Office of Preventative Health and Health Equity at the Mississippi State Department of Health. She has been the Consultant Pharmacist with the Jackson Heart Study since 1999.
 - **Joan M. Wesley, PhD** is Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at Jackson State University. Her work emphasizes stakeholder empowerment through CBPR.
-

NEW YORK

Champion Academy MESH Club & University of Rochester Medical Center Finger Lakes

Champion Academy MESH (Medical, Environmental, Science, and Health) Club is the working name for the CBPR partnership between Champion Academy (CA) and University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) Finger Lakes. The goal of the CBPR partnership is to conduct CBPR related to youth development that will: 1) Engage youth in hands-on science activities so that they can learn and serve as environmental health ambassadors in their families and communities; 2) Create opportunities for close interaction between youth in poverty and medical students and pediatric resident doctors from URMC to learn from one another and break down cultural barriers. Our joint goal is to create opportunities for co-learning by using hands-on science takeout kits to promote hands-on learning of science and environmental health principles that can be relevant in the community, and that will inform research and policy change.

- **Christopher Rush** is the Executive Director of the Champion Academy, and he has been with the organization for two years. Christopher's background is in business, he completed his MBA program in 2016, and worked in the headquarters of a major grocery chain as a pricing analyst. He decided that he wanted to get involved with supporting the youth in Rochester, so he made a career change and has dedicated his professional life to helping teens in poverty, and to fight for their future.
- **Sandra Jee, MD, MPH**, is a general pediatrician and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at URMC, and is the co-Director of the Finger Lakes Children's Environmental Health Center, part of the New York State Children's Environmental Health network. She has a longstanding commitment to providing clinical care and doing direct outreach with underserved children and youth, and to raising awareness about climate change impacts on human health.

NORTH CAROLINA

St. Phillip Urban Community Garden of Peace & North Carolina A&T State University

The St. Phillip Urban Community Garden of Peace is a comprehensive Health Initiative for the church group. The objectives are: (1) to create a social network in the community, (2) to provide fresh food in an urban marginalized economic area, (3) to increase consumption of fresh vegetables, and (4) to create an environment that promotes positive mental health. The project team (led by Rev. Dr. Lisa Caldwell) will develop classes on preparation low-cost healthy meals; promote healthy eating habits to improve diabetes management; train community members in urban gardening methods for growing fresh herbs, fruits, and vegetables; and promote increase physical activity for children and families.

- **Rev. Dr. Lisa Caldwell** is the Senior Pastor of St. Phillip AMEZ Church, a member of Duke University Medical Center's Health Equity and Liaison (HEAL) working group, and member of

the advisory committee for the NIH-funded North Carolina Diabetes Research Center. The collaboration with Duke (HEAL) is an effort to improve research participation and health improvement in the church and community. Participation on the advisory committee for the NC Diabetes Research Center, as a community connector, allows opportunity to identify health inequities.

- **Raymond E. Samuel, MD, PhD** is a Professor in the Department of Biology at North Carolina A&T State University (NC A&T) and also serve as the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill CTSA (NC TraCS) Liaison, wherein I promote NC TraCS resources, proposal writing and funding opportunities, research training and opportunities for collaborative team development among NC A&T faculty. Dr. Samuel is engaged in the development of innovative community engagement strategies based on cutting-edge principles of behavioral economics and use of persuasive technologies to increase the effectiveness of health education and health promotion in low-resourced and hard-to-reach African American populations.

PENNSYLVANIA

Women for a Healthy Environment & Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Synthetic playing surfaces have a number of environmental health concerns identified over the years by academic researchers, health advocacy organizations, professional athletic teams, local municipalities, and community members. The partnership between community organization Women for a Healthy Environment and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai focuses on designing and implementing a community-based participatory research project that allows the program team to understand community questions and concerns regarding synthetic play surfaces, identify research methods to respond to these questions and concerns using citizen science and other frameworks, and engage community members in collecting and analyzing data to investigate alternative solutions for safe and healthy playing surfaces. The goal of this collaboration is to provide communities with a decision-making framework that centers community priorities and values when choosing safer playing surfaces.

- **Talor Musil** is the Health Policy Coordinator at the Pittsburgh-based environmental health non-profit Women for a Healthy Environment. She is a macro social worker by training with a professional background in community organizing and public health advocacy/coalition-building. Talor is passionate about community-driven change and policy solutions that improve the well-being of people and their environments. She is adamant that our ZIP code should not determine our health.
- **Homero Harari, ScD** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is an exposure scientist and his research focuses on the assessment and prevention of exposures in occupational and environmental settings.

TENNESSEE

Payne Chapel AME Church & Tennessee State University

The aim of the CBPR partnership between Tennessee State University-Department of Public Health, Health Administration, and Health Sciences and Payne Chapel AME Church is to address health disparities and inequities in a Nashville community that is predominantly composed of persons who are ordinarily relegated to the space of underserved and underrepresented in our society. This partnership and engagement intends to advance our community's thinking and behaviors in a direction that begins to improve their access and implementation of tools and resources that both addresses their varied health disparities and inequities; and raises their desire to pursue the best practices for the health and lives of themselves and their families. In addition, the aim is to focus on the needs of varied stakeholders to include underserved communities and those who serve populations who are disproportionately impacted by adverse health outcomes.

- **W.A. Sinkfield** is the Senior Pastor of Payne Chapel AME Church and the CEO of Daniel Payne Christian Outreach Ministries. He is also a founding member of the organization Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH), an anti-racist faith-based coalition that is multiracial, multigenerational, and interfaith comprised of congregations, community organizations, and labor unions that work to amplify the power of ordinary people.
- **Alexis G. Heaston**, is an assistant professor in the Department of Public Health, Health Administration, and Health Sciences at Tennessee State University. Her work focuses on health disparities, risky health behaviors, and peer-based health education.

TEXAS

disABILITY & University of Texas at San Antonio

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and disABILITYsa are partnering to conduct CBPR in San Antonio with a goal of increasing access to medical services and community resources for those living with disabilities. We are a brand new partnership and hope to apply the techniques we learn to prepare a strategic plan for our partnership. We also hope to learn how to establish practices that embed authentic CBPR approaches. Ultimately, we want to focus our time to ensure we utilize each partners strengths to effectively conduct research that identifies relevant needs and solutions for those living with disabilities in the community we serve.

- **Leslie Neely, PhD**, Associate Professor of Education Psychology, University of Texas at San Antonio - Dr. Neely's work centers on progressing the treatment of children with autism, intellectual, and developmental disabilities (AUIDD) with the science of applied behavior analysis (ABA). Recognized as one of the leading experts on the topic of ABA telehealth, she is frequently invited to present webinars and training.
- **Melanie Cawthon**, Executive Director/Co-Founder, disABILITYsa - Melanie is an executive leader with a vision to make San Antonio the #1 community where individuals with disabilities want to live, work, and play. She has over 16 years of dedicated service toward the advancement of

individuals with disabilities within her local community and the development of programs that promote greater equity, inclusion, and independence.

WASHINGTON DC

La Clínica del Pueblo & George Washington University

“Capitol Latino Health Equity Partnership” is a collaboration between La Clinica del Pueblo (LCDP), a federally qualified health center that has worked within the DMV for over 35 years, and the Milken Institute School of Public Health at the George Washington University (GWU), a leading School of Public Health committed to excellence in scholarship to advance the health of the populations of our local, national, and global communities. The goals of this project are to use the CBPR to produce grounded knowledge about Latino communities in the Washington DC area, shed light on health inequalities, and build a cornerstone for future collaboration to intervene on identified health inequities. This project seeks to reinforce how together we can build a healthy Latino community through culturally appropriate health services. Dr. Suarez and Dr. Rodriguez-Diaz have been working together for more than a year and look forward to continuing to nurture common interests to work together and develop research projects with our Latinx communities in Washington DC area.

- **Angela Suarez, MD** has been the Program Evaluation Manager in La Clinica del Pueblo since 2019. She oversees all monitoring and evaluation competencies in LCDP as well as collaborations with local researchers.
- **Carlos Rodriguez-Diaz, PhD, MPH, MCHES**, is an Associate Professor of Prevention and Community Health at GWU- Milken Institute School of Public Health University and Co-Lead of the GWU Latino Health Research Center. His work has focused on infectious diseases, particularly HIV care and prevention, as well as sexual health promotion and health equity through actions on the social determinants of health.