



CBPR PARTNERSHIP ACADEMY: 2022-23 COHORT

CALIFORNIA

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (API-GBV) & San José State University School of Social Work

The goal of this partnership is to understand the needs and unique circumstances of Southeast Asian survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in the United States and its territories. It is important to gather the research and data at this moment in time as we discuss race equality in our country. There is a focus on the AAPI community, but traditionally and historically, there is very little disaggregated data on gender based violence in our communities. Knowledge related to Southeast Asian GBV survivors is important as we shape our policies due to the challenges, needs and responses in our community, and develop staff capacity to develop lasting partnerships with Southeast Asian communities.

- **Swathi Reddy** is the Research and Evaluation Manager of the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence (API-GBV). The API-GBV seeks to strengthen culturally-specific advocacy, influence systems change, impact public policy, and engage in movement building and community transformation to prevent gender violence in Asian/Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.
 - **Ruvani W. Fonseka** is an Assistant Professor at San José State University School of Social Work. During her PhD studies in San Diego, Ruvani managed a community health research project for the UCSD Center on Gender Equity and Health in collaboration with San Ysidro Health, a CBPR Academy alumni organization.
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Connecticut
Hispanic Health Council &
University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Hispanic Health Council and the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Medicine will work together to investigate the work conditions of community health workers (CHWs). CHWs provide an essential service to communities by building individual and community health knowledge and self-efficacy, facilitating access to health and social services, and addressing social determinants of health. Evidence indicates that CHWs improve clinical outcomes and reduce health care costs, however little attention has been given to the health and well-being of CHWs themselves. Our partnership aims to use CBPR approaches to characterize CHW work hazards and well-being, and to build capacity among CHWs to harness their interest in research and passion for the community to learn from their frontline experience.

- **Christine C. Caruso** is Chief Research and Advocacy Officer at Hispanic Health Council. She is an environmental psychologist by training, and her research and practice is motivated to address social determinants of health (SDOH) and health equity, with an emphasis on food environments and participatory process.
- **Shayna Cunningham** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the UConn School of Medicine. Her research applies mixed method and implementation science approaches to develop and evaluate interventions aimed at promoting health equity, particularly related to maternal and child health, for structurally marginalized populations.

FLORIDA
Florida Food Policy Council/Suncoast Sierra Club &
University of South Florida, St. Petersburg

Florida Food Policy Council and University of South Florida will work together to add a module to CRIS (Community resilience information systems) for food insecurity to tie back to health via survey that can then be mapped and analyzed for comparison. It will build upon the work conducted by the Initiative on Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (iCAR). This will be an extension of Dr. Dixon's USF iCAR work, will build upon work on CRIS to add a health module to tie back to food insecurity and health issues that impact equitable resilience. USF's collaboration with Florida Food Policy Council will help us take cutting-edge research and technology to the community so we can promote awareness and impact policy development that is supported by scientific data. This will help us get science to the community.

- **Erica Hall** is the Board Chair of the Florida Food Policy Council (FLFPC). She is also on the Sierra Club, Florida Chapter Executive Committee and has a multi-disciplinary background as a community economic development practitioner, community organizer, environmental justice advocate, Board member, JEDI facilitator/trainer/consultant, and Senior Legal Professional with interests in intersectional environmentalism exploring the connection between sustainability, resiliency, food waste, climate change, food insecurity, the built form and placemaking, economic resilience, racial, social justice and equity, housing diversity, and affordability.
 - **Dr. Barnali Dixon** is a Professor at the School of Geosciences, the Executive Director of iCAR, the Director of Geo-Spatial Analytics Lab, and an Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Water Resources Association. Dr. Dixon's research emphasis as part of iCAR initiative includes equitable resilience through data-driven policy making.
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GEORGIA

Center for Black Women's Wellness & Emory University School of Medicine, Department of GYN/OB

The partnership between the Center for Black Women's Wellness & Emory University School of Medicine, Department of GYN/OB focuses on reducing maternal health inequities within our community. Our objectives after completing the CBPR Academy are to develop a grant application that uses a CBPR approach to address Black maternal health disparities, expand our community-academic partnership to include at least one other community-based organization, and develop a Community IRB to help establish protocols and approaches for reviewing and developing research projects. Our long-term vision would be that the Center for Black Women's Wellness and other community-based organizations are able to lead the community-focused maternal health research efforts, with Emory or other academic partners serving in a supportive role as needed.

- **Monica Simmonds serves as a MCH Program Coordinator** at the Center for Black Women's Wellness. The Center for Black Women's Wellness (CBWW) is a community-based nonprofit organization that is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of Black women. The organization provides several comprehensive programs that are designed to educate, empower and inspire participants to make positive changes in their lives and the lives of their families.
 - **Sheree Boulet** is an Assistant Professor at Emory University School of Medicine, Department of GYN/OB. She is trained as a maternal and child health epidemiologist and leads the Department's Population Health Research Team.
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INDIANA

Ben Davis High School & Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis

Ben Davis High School - Metropolitan School District (MSD) of Wayne Township and Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis will work together on the development, implementation, and evaluation of a pilot intervention program aimed at promoting and catering to the emotional and mental health needs of teachers at Ben Davis High School. Our hope is that through the CBPR partnership the current needs of the teachers can be met, and with the commitment and buy-in from the stakeholders in the school system, the programming established and CBPR partnership can continue long-term to promote social and policy change and improve the health of the school community.

- **Shayla Hampton** is the Secondary Social Emotional Coach for the MSD of Wayne Township. As an SEL Coach, her duties include providing support, resources and professional development to school leaders and teachers that work to build and deepen a positive school climate and culture.
 - **Tamika Zapolski** is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis. She is the director of the Prevention Research in Substance use and Minority Health (PRISM) research lab and has worked closely with schools and youth-serving community organizations for the past 10 years, collaborating with them in conducting research studies on risk and protection for substance use and related health outcomes, particularly among minoritized populations, as well the implementation of interventions delivered in community settings to reduce substance use risk for youth.
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LOUISIANA

Industrial Areas Foundation/Together Baton Rouge & Louisiana State University

The goal of this partnership is to develop a framework for building CBPR projects that engage Together Baton Rouge (TBR) member institutions in work that advances health equity in East Baton Rouge Parish (EBRP). The objectives of our CBPR partnership are to clarify collaboration and mutual interests to identify and secure grant funding for a joint project, and develop a framework for CBPR projects that enhance our understanding of communities in EBRP and mechanisms for addressing the challenges they face.

- **Khalid Hudson** is the Lead Organizer for Together Baton Rouge. As an organizer working with institutions in local communities, he thinks that universities are significant and important institutions. If their influence could be leveraged in support of local communities it could be groundbreaking.
- **Jennifer Scott** is an Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University. She has been collaborating with communities and community-based organizations in different capacities throughout her professional life. Prior to becoming a social work professional, she worked for a Peruvian

organization focused on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable development in collaboration with Quechua people in the Andes. Throughout her social work career, she has worked with a variety of community-based organizations.

MICHIGAN

AMEC Health Commission & University of Michigan Medical School

The University of Michigan Medical School and AMEC Health Commission are partnering to establish a blueprint for a solid foundation of effective health ministries in each of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) congregations throughout Michigan. We seek to provide District-wide training for leaders of congregations or auxiliaries so similar science- and medical-based understanding and access to resources for health advocacy are available to every community where AMEC churches are located. We will explore how principles of CBPR might enable best development, functioning, and sustainability of health ministries that will begin to reduce health disparities prevalent especially in African American communities. An initial focus will be managing COVID-19 and its physical, mental and emotional outcomes.

- **Apryl Brown** is the appointed Chairperson of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) North District Michigan Conference Health Commission. She is an active pastor with experience in public health. She has worked in academia as an Adjunct Professor in biology at Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD).
 - **Patricia Coleman Burns** is an Assistant Professor Emerita at the University of Michigan School of Nursing. She is an advocate for the right of all persons to be free from gender oppression, sexism, racism, and violence. Her research is on racial identity and health equity and she has run offices, programs, and grants focusing on the retention and successful learning behaviors of underrepresented nursing students. She is actively involved in ministry in the AME church and is the Pastor of First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Farmington Hills.
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NEVADA

Research, Education, Access for Community Health & University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Research, Education, Access for Community Health (REACH) and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas are partnering to provide evidence-based research, information, development and implementation of programs to improve community health services and access to care in the State of Nevada, regardless of race, creed, religion, color, sex, marital status, or physical challenges. Our project will address health disparities among Latinos in Nevada and give community partners, academic researchers and community members equal representation and involvement in all aspects of research. We will increase our

knowledge about CBPR, and put its principles into action while increasing community involvement in research.

- **Luis Aceves** is the Development Manager at REACH. He has experience working on a variety of community health projects for the Latino community in Nevada. CHW
 - **Christopher Johansen** is an Assistant Professor at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He experienced CBPR from a distance as a graduate student while obtaining his PhD in Health Promotion Sciences.
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NEW JERSEY

Prevent Child Abuse - New Jersey & Rutgers School of Social Work

Prevent Child Abuse - New Jersey (PCA-NJ) & Rutgers University School of Social Work are partnering to conduct community based participatory research that promotes the well-being of children and prevention of child maltreatment. Through the *Supporting New Jersey Children and Families* project our objectives are to: 1) conduct research to support healthy, caring relationships with children through positive relational development. 2) translate findings into practices and policies that will benefit New Jersey communities via various dissemination efforts including brief reports, manuscripts, and presentations, and 3) build the infrastructure to support ongoing program evaluation and improvement efforts in New Jersey communities and beyond.

- **Victoria Spera-Ballesteros, MID** is a Program Coordinator in the Community Engagement Department at Prevent Child Abuse - New Jersey, where she has been promoting the wellbeing, resilience, and safety of NJ youth since 2017. She supports statewide programs focused on preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and childhood trauma by educating community members and youth and family-serving professionals.
 - **Jacquelynn Duron** is an Associate Professor at Rutgers University School of Social Work. Dr. Duron's research focuses on the intersection of family systems with criminal legal systems by striving to improve the child welfare and juvenile justice systems' responses to the adversities that children and adolescents experience. She researches issues related to traumatic experiences, legal processes, prevention efforts, and intervention services that advance youth well-being.
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NORTH CAROLINA

American Indian Mothers & North Carolina State University

American Indian Mothers and North Carolina State University will partner to ensure safety and sustainability of drinking water for American Indians of North Carolina long term. We aim to design sustainable interventions for ensuring that residents of Robeson County, NC, have safe, reliable, affordable drinking water; develop a plan for harnessing the artesian wells of Red Springs, NC, for economic development of the community; identify community concerns about the safety, reliability, and

affordability of drinking water in Robeson County; characterize the chemical and microbiological quality of fresh water from all types of sources used for human consumption in Robeson County; estimate adverse health effects attributable to drinking water quality and reliability in Robeson County; and gather community insights on opportunities to leverage artesian wells and other water resources of Robeson County for economic development while preserving the quality and quantity of these vital resources.

- **Beverly Collins-Hall** is the Agriculture and Housing Program Director of American Indian Mothers. American Indian Mothers Inc. (AIMI) is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization serving the education, health, social service, and agriculture and cultural needs of American Indians (AI) and minorities residing in North Carolina. They are a community-based organization mandated to improve the status of American Indians, and to foster inter-cultural understanding among the AI Tribes and Organizations throughout North Carolina, USA and Canada.
 - **Jacqueline MacDonald Gibson** is Head of the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at North Carolina State University. Her formal training is in environmental engineering and in public policy (with a dual PhD).
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TENNESSEE

Nashville CARES & Meharry Medical College

Nashville CARES & Meharry Medical College are working together to engage staff and community members (peers living with HIV) as key stakeholders to implement, evaluate, and adapt our newly developed resilience-focused rapid antiretroviral therapy (ART) program at My House Clinic. Currently, we are developing this intervention through community engagement by conducting one-on-one interviews with people recently diagnosed with HIV who received rapid ART at our My House Clinic. Our project will build on our preliminary data, and use CBPR to engage patients, staff members, and other topical experts in the community to help us best implement this new intervention in a way that is culturally appropriate and most likely to be well-received. We will learn strategies to refine and sustain our ongoing efforts to adopt trauma-informed care at Nashville CARES through this partnership.

- **Amna Osman** is the CEO of Nashville CARES. Nashville CARES has been serving Middle Tennessee for thirty-six years, their mission is to End the HIV epidemic, through education, advocacy, and services. For over two decades, she has witnessed the progression of the HIV epidemic, locally, nationally, and globally.
 - **Lauren Brown** is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences and the Director of Trauma and HIV Studies at the Center for the Study of Social Determinants of Health. Throughout her career, she has predominantly worked in community-based organizations (CBO) as a mental health practitioner and has recently been a community-based researcher.
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WASHINGTON

Duwamish River Community Coalition & University of Washington

This partnership has goals of meaningful involvement with an environmental justice community and building capacity in the community. We hope to promote an equitable partnership between the academic and community partner, that is to develop a power sharing relationship that leads to community empowerment. We plan to work on a project related to air pollution and asthma in children living in the Duwamish Valley. We are interested in monitoring indoor and outdoor levels of air pollution and evaluating low cost air filters to understand if they improve air quality and asthma symptoms. We would like the opportunity to learn together and co-develop our research skills, hopefully resulting in a lasting relationship.

- **Paulina Lopez Bermudez** is the Executive Director of the Duwamish River Community Coalition (DRCC). DRCC elevates the voice of those impacted by the Duwamish River pollution and other environmental injustices for a clean, healthy, equitable environment for people and wildlife. We promote place-keeping and prioritize community capacity and resilience. Our values as an organization are related to people power, community centered, transformation and justice
 - **Anjum Hajat** is an Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Washington School of Public Health. Her research focuses on environmental health disparities and environmental justice historically using secondary data to answer questions of interest.
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