



Achieving a Healthy Illinois by Eliminating Health Disparities

2023 Illinois Minority Health Conference
December 4-5, 2023 | Bone Student Center, Normal, IL

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Bloomington-Normal Marriott

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Pre-Conference Workshop A: Racial Healing Circle

Fell A

A Racial Healing Circle is a session led by TRHT trained Racial Healing Practitioners consisting of both group interactions and smaller, more intimate conversations. The experience relies on intentional listening and opening your heart space to unearth truths and conscious and unconscious biases. Participating in Racial Healing Circles can also raise awareness, consciousness, compassion, and empathy among those who participate. Racial Healing Practitioners are trained to ensure that the circles are confidential and safe spaces for participants to have truthful conversations with one another.

Ugochi Nwaogwugwu, *Founder, Spirit Speaks, Inc.*

Aneela Dean, *Trauma Release Facilitator*

Pre-Conference Workshop B (Two Sessions)

The Art + Science of Grant Development: Inspiring Confidence + Securing Support for Your Mission

Fell B

In this interactive and fast-paced workshop, participants will learn the core principles of grant development including the difference between objectives, outcomes and impact; gaining clarity on your what and why; and a few tricks of the trade including the role of AI, the art of storytelling, and how to wrangle a big vision down to a clear case for support.

Jen Patterson, *Co-Founder, CEO, & Principal Consultant, Mango Consulting*

Applying for Illinois Department of Public Health Grants: A Technical Primer

Fell B

In this session, participants will learn about the mechanics of how to find State of IL grant opportunities, how to prequalify and determine if your organization is eligible, and basic how-to's on applying for (and being selected to receive) a state grant. Creating an account in EGrAMS and applying for grants using this system will be covered. The primary focus will be on grants available from the Illinois Department of Public Health, but much of the information will be relevant for grants from other state agencies in Illinois.

Lisa Cotner, *Grant Compliance Specialist, Illinois Department of Public Health*

Pre-Conference Workshop C: Community Legislative Advocacy Institute: How to Leverage Disruptive Advocacy to Impact Health Disparities

Fell C

We will never eliminate health disparities until we address the policies that are responsible. Learn how during this seminar.

Todd Belcore, *Executive Director, Social Change*

Session Tracks

A: Evaluation, Research, & Reporting

B: Innovation, Evidence-based Approaches

C: Building Unprecedented Partnerships and Collaborations

D: Understanding Disparities in Healthcare Accessibility

Monday, December 4, 2023

Bone Student Center

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Registration

Pre-Function (outside of the Brown Ballroom)

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Wellness and Religious Room

Founders Suite

7:30 – 8:30 AM

Breakfast, Exhibits, and Poster Sessions

Brown Ballroom III

8:30 – 9:30 AM

General Session I: Framing Health Research for Communities of Color and the Census Bureau Data that Enables It

Brown Ballroom III

Robert Santos, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, will share his perspective to encourage thinking differently about how health research is framed and how data from the Census Bureau can be leveraged to spark new insights. He will offer some lessons that can relate to health research for communities of color and others more generally. His message will illustrate how we can use our culture and life experience to think differently about a research problem. This, in turn can promote innovation, creativity and critical thinking in the pursuit of excellence in any field of work, including health research. Director Santos will relay his commitment to empower data users with understandable, accurate, and timely information and the knowledge to put it to work.

Dr. Robert Luis Santos, *U.S. Census Bureau Director*

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Track A: Using Data for Equity and Shared Power in the ARISE Initiative: WIN Measures Approach

Brown Ballroom I

Often minority health and well-being has been defined without the input of communities who are experiencing inequities. This session will share both data and stories of what communities experiencing inequities across Illinois have been collecting, using data and measures that matter to them in the ARISE initiative, building on a data for power and equity approach advanced through the Well-being In the Nation measures process.

Soma Saha, *Executive Lead, Wellbeing In the Nation (WIN) Network*

Track B: Visions of Black Maternal Healthcare at Planned Parenthood of Illinois

Brown Ballroom II

Black maternal morbidity and mortality remain a huge crisis in Illinois and throughout the country at large. Many non-profit organizations are starting to dedicate their resources to improve Black maternal healthcare in the state, including Planned Parenthood of Illinois. In this presentation, I will discuss the state legislation that Planned Parenthood Illinois Action has advocated for in order to improve outcomes for Black birthing people in Illinois. Additionally, I will explore how the new Bridges to Prenatal Care program is positively impacting our Black patients by connecting them with needed resources to have successful birth stories. Finally, I will discuss how the public can partner with Planned Parenthood and other organizations to improve Black maternal healthcare in Illinois.

Mariana Thomas, *Program Manager, Black Organizing Program, Planned Parenthood of Illinois*

Track C: Building a Nursing Education to Workforce Coalition

Circus

Effective leadership is central to the development of high-functioning community partnerships, and high-functioning community partnerships are central to overcoming social barriers that perpetuate education and health inequities. In this presentation, you will learn about the leadership approach that led to the development of Rosalind Franklin University's Nursing INSPIRE and the Nursing Education to Workforce Coalition that supports it.

Sandra Larson, *Founding Dean, College of Nursing at the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science*

Mosilda Asanji, *Director, Dean's Office, College of Nursing at the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science*

Monday, December 4, 2023

Bone Student Center

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Track D: Ensuring Health Equity in the Prevention and Control of Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in Illinois. Evidence-Based Approaches and Data-Driven Decisions

Old Main

This presentation will focus on the efforts being made to address health inequity in cardiovascular disease and diabetes among the minority populations in Illinois. The focus will be on conveying the evidence-based approaches recommended by the CDC, methods of identifying target populations at the community level, and the importance of including community-based organizations representing Illinois' minority populations as part of the governance process.

Phillip Pitman, *Chronic Disease Epidemiologist, Illinois Department of Public Health*

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Break

Brown Ballroom III

10:45 – 11:45 AM

Track A: An Examination of Disparities by Language Preference Within the Hispanic Population in Illinois

Brown Ballroom I

Increased Spanish-speaking population in Illinois demands that examination of any possible health disparities along language lines within this group be assessed. The objective of this work is to determine disparities along BRFSS survey language lines in the Hispanic population for health behaviors, health care access, self-reported health status, and health conditions.

Chisom Madukonam, *Senior Research Associate, Charleston Area Medical Center*

Samantha Saini, *BRFSS Coordinator, Illinois Department of Public Health*

Kemba Noel-London, *Senior Epidemiologist, Illinois Department of Public Health*

Track B: A Landscape Scan of Innovations, Levers for Change, and Opportunities to Advance Health Equity

Brown Ballroom II

Addressing trauma requires a multi-pronged, multi-agency public health approach, and the city of Chicago has long been on its journey to becoming trauma informed. In service of building the Health Department's knowledge and capacity to convene and lead city-wide systems change efforts, EDC conducted a mixed-methods landscape scan study to understand how trauma-informed transformation of city systems is defined and measured, as well as promising outcomes and indicators of success. For this presentation, we will share findings that draw from empirical literature, case studies of peer cities, and key informant interviews, which altogether informed emerging best practices and recommendations for advancing trauma-informed systems change in Chicago and beyond.

Dina Khalil, *Training and Technical Assistance Associate & Epidemiologist, Education Development Center*

Dr. Sarah Gabriella Hernandez, *Senior Research Associate, Education Development Center*

Track C: ARISE Initiative Panel Session

Circus

Coalitions Engaging Alton for Equity, Immigrant Cooperative, and Quincy ARISE collectively represent Champaign, Alton, and Adams Counties within Illinois. The panel will provide a unique perspective as they have made a concerted effort to build relationships with the community, include people with lived experience in their work, and identify mechanisms for change. They will share their journeys with engaging different populations (e.g., immigrants, those healing from gun violence, how to engage public health departments in grassroots efforts). The communities they represent vary in population size and history. The panel will share varying perspectives on engaging the community in rural areas, addressing community division, and how to utilize data to identify those most in need of support.

Macy Ferguson, *Senior Advisor – DEI/Health Equity Behavioral Health Therapist, Quincy Medical Group*

Anne Scheer, *Assistant Professor, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine*

Whitney Greger, *Director of Wellness & Health Promotion, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District*

Dr. Megan Wanzo, *Consultant, WE in the World Institute*

Andrew Martin, *Director, WE in the World Institute*

Monday, December 4, 2023

Bone Student Center

10:45 – 11:45 AM

Track D: Men's Health Testimonies and Outreach Panel

Old Main

Men's Health Testimonies and Outreach is a collection of personal stories and initiatives aimed at raising awareness about men's health issues. This abstract explores the power of testimonies shared by men who have faced health challenges, inspiring others to prioritize their well-being. The outreach efforts encompass various campaigns, events, and resources designed to promote physical and mental health in men, fostering a community that supports and empowers one another on their health journeys.

Marc Bell, *Retired Master Sergeant, Illinois State Police*

Robert Jelks, Sr., *Owner, His Hands Massage Therapy*

Michael Gaines, *Correction Coordinator, Division of Infectious Diseases HIV/AIDS Section, Illinois Department of Public Health*

Steve Richie

11:45 AM – 1:15 PM

Lunch, Exhibits, and Poster Sessions

Brown Ballroom III

1:15 – 2:00 PM

General Session II: Structural Racism and White Supremacy

Brown Ballroom III

This presentation by Jeremy Allen with Southern Illinois University provides history and context regarding structural racism and its influence on established systems. This presentation provides education surrounding the subject of systemic racism and how this influences our lives.

Jeremy Allen, *Assistant Lecturer in Sociology, Southern Illinois University*

2:15 – 3:15 PM

Track A: Equitable Vaccine Administration (EVA) Dashboard: A Data Model for COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation & Administration

Brown Ballroom I

During the COVID-19 response, the Illinois Department of Public Health utilized both traditional and innovative epidemiological methods to assess health disparities. An interactive and real-time data dashboard was developed as a planning tool to ensure equitable allocation and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. Improvements in vaccine uptake among Illinois most vulnerable communities was demonstrated.

Kemba Noel-London, *Senior Epidemiologist, Illinois Department of Public Health*

Janae Price, *Senior Epidemiologist, Illinois Department of Public Health*

Track B: Operationalizing Equity: Tools from the Chicago Department of Public Health

Brown Ballroom II

In the fall of 2021, OERJ launched the Equity and Racial Justice Cohorts to develop city departments' capacity to create Racial Equity Action Plans (REAPS). This is a key institutional change strategy to operationalize racial equity into the core business of government.

Rev. Nilsa Irizarry, *Senior Equity Officer, Office of Racial Equity and Belonging, Chicago Department of Public Health*

Sydney Edmond, *Projects Administrator, Office of Health Equity in All Policies, Chicago Department of Public Health*

Track C: Misinformation Surrounding Who the Migrants Are and How They Get into the U.S.

Circus

As we navigate through the current arrival of migrants refugees/asylum seekers in Illinois, it is crucial that not only do we understand the characteristics of the newly arrived migrants, but identify our role in receiving them, as it pertains to their health and any potential health threat to our communities.

Maggie Rivera, *President and CEO, Illinois Migrant Council*

Vanessa Mendoza, *Vice-President, Illinois Migrant Council*

Monday, December 4, 2023

Bone Student Center

2:15 – 3:15 PM

Track D: Gender Affirming Care: Creating Inclusive Spaces for Mental Health

Old Main

This session is designed for anyone interested in gaining skills and knowledge on providing inclusive and affirming care to gender diverse individuals. Topics will include identity development, standard of care and best practices, inclusive documentation, and more.

Jessica Ramos, *Mental Health Professional Intern, The Project of Quad Cities*

Jessica Slover, *Behavioral Health Clinician, The Project of Quad Cities*

3:15 – 3:30 PM

Break

Brown Ballroom III

3:30 – 4:30 PM

Track A: Updating the Illinois Oral Health Surveillance System: Trends and Insights

Brown Ballroom I

In Illinois, oral health is a fundamental aspect of overall well-being, but it is often faced with challenges, including marked disparities in oral disease rates and restricted access to dental care, particularly among minority and underserved populations. To tackle these issues, the Illinois Department of Public Health launched the Illinois Oral Health Surveillance Plan (IOHSP) in 2021. This comprehensive plan not only compiles key oral health indicators and data but is also designed to serve as the basis for developing targeted interventions that will specifically benefit these communities within Illinois. The IOHSP thus provides essential data to inform public health programs and initiatives, making a substantial impact on improving oral health and promoting equity in Illinois. This presentation will highlight surveillance data from the most recent iteration of the Illinois Oral Health Surveillance System (IOHSS), which includes 2022 data.

Pedro X. Medina Cuevas, *CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow, Illinois Department of Public Health*

Track B: Violence Prevention through Hip-Hop Based Cultural Identity and Wellness Curriculum

Brown Ballroom II

The range of Chicago residents impacted by gun violence is diverse, but the profile of the perpetrators is often more narrow. Young Black men who live in disinvested neighborhoods become agents of the violence that has been enacted upon their communities for generations. The mental health movement largely overlooks this highly vulnerable population due to a lack of relevant interventions. To fill this void, we have curated a series of engaging multimedia facilitation prompts that can be used as a standalone curriculum or supplemental toolkit to enhance the effectiveness of violence prevention efforts by promoting positive youth development.

Dr. Obari Cartman, *President, Chicago Association of Black Psychologists*

Track C: Empowering Local Health Departments to Support Diverse Communities: Cultivating Effective Services for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants (RIM)

Circus

Local Health Departments (LHDs) grapple with the complexity of providing culturally and linguistically appropriate health and social services to Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant (RIM) communities. In this session, we offer LHDs a resource package designed to facilitate the long-term integration of RIM community needs within their operational structures. The ultimate aim is to empower LHDs with knowledge and tools for creating a more inclusive, adaptive, and culturally responsive system. By addressing these challenges and sharing best practices, this session seeks to equip LHDs to serve the unique requirements of RIM communities effectively.

Whitney Greger, *Director of Wellness & Health Promotion, Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department*

Monday, December 4, 2023

Bone Student Center

3:30 – 4:30 PM

Track D: Facing COVID-19 with Empathetic Therapeutic Services

Old Main

The presentation will be covering Pilsen Wellness Center (PWC) history and services as a cultural competence and linguistic provider. An introduction of my role and the percentages of the population served by PWC. Open discussion on the initiative of PWC having face-to-face and English/Spanish psychotherapeutic services. The ideologies behind PWC as a community provider to continue in-person services during COVID-19 to stay engaged and collaborate with our participants. The rationale and approach of PWC's vision and mission when facing mental health disparities and social justice issues with our communities.

Jose Iniguez, *Program Director, Pilsen Wellness Center*

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Bone Student Center

7:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Registration

Pre-Function (outside of the Brown Ballroom)

7:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Wellness and Religious Room

Founders Suite

7:30 – 8:30 AM

Breakfast, Exhibits, and Poster Sessions

Brown Ballroom III

8:30 - 9:30 AM

General Session III: Health Equity: From Words to Action

Brown Ballroom III

Dr. Vohra will discuss his unified vision for health and how IDPH seeks to use its partnerships to identify and close the gaps that exist in equitable access to care.

Sameer Vohra, MD, JD, MA, *Director, Illinois Department of Public Health*

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Track A: Supporting the Health and Well-Being of Rural LGBTQ Communities

Brown Ballroom I

This session will identify the differences in access to healthcare in rural communities and review community assessment data. Recommendations driven by community feedback and best practices in supporting rural LGBTQ communities will be shared.

Joe Golden, *Program Coordinator, St. Ambrose University*

Viminda Schafer, *Community Relations and Development Coordinator, The Project of the Quad Cities*

Track B: Mental Health Promotion in an Academic Medical Center

Brown Ballroom II

Embedded into an academic medical center workforce development program, Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) psychologists' partnered to bring the H.E.A.L. (Health and Emotional Awareness Lab) program to BIPOC youth participants committed to a career in healthcare. Thus, a pipeline opportunity, with a public health approach, was cultivated to provide a 6-week, one hour curriculum that addresses education, skill building, and stigma reduction of mental health challenges to promote well-being to youth. To understand their level of knowledge pre/post about trauma, mental health, coping skills, and public health, a brief survey specific to the HEAL program was added to the overall program evaluation and will be presented.

Tara Gill, *Psychologist, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago*

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Bone Student Center

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Track C: Gun Violence, Suicide Prevention, and Your Mental Health

Circus

A panel discussion on experience, data, and prevention.

Jennifer Martin, *Injury and Violence Prevention Project Manager, Illinois Department of Public Health, Office of Health Promotion, Division of Emerging Issues*

Wayne Fricks, *Assistant Pastor, No Cross No Crown Fellowship Church on the Move*

Dr. Abdullah Pratt, *Assistant Professor and Emergency Medicine Physician, University of Chicago Medical Center*

Track D: Maternal Mortality Campaign – Join the Gathering

Old Main

The Community Engagement Director is responsible for leading the organization's community engagement strategy, aimed at understanding the health priorities of people with contraceptive and reproductive needs, families with young children and adolescents, and communities most impacted by health injustices in Illinois.

Tamela Milan-Alexander, *Community Engagement Director, EverThrive IL*

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Break

Brown Ballroom III

10:45 – 11:45 AM

Track A: Hidden Wounds: Understanding the Impact of Gun Violence in Children

Brown Ballroom I

The City of Chicago leads the nation in homicides. In 2022, 643 Chicagoans were murdered and 3,300 were shooting victims. 2022 also saw an unprecedented number of children killed or injured by gun violence. Black individuals comprise nearly 50% of all firearm deaths in Illinois, even though Black individuals make up only 14.6% of the population. Experiencing gun violence – directly or indirectly – puts children at high risk of suffering negative mental, behavioral, and physical health outcomes. Unrelenting, unpredictable violence unravels individuals, families, and whole communities, regardless of socioeconomic status. The issues are compounded when the community has been neglected and under-resourced for generations, where poverty levels are through the roof, and economic opportunity is scarce. Thankfully, trauma is not destiny. Survivors of trauma can heal, but it takes intensive support over the long term. Friends of the Children-Chicago is demonstrating that relationship-based, trauma-informed services that start early and are sustained over many years can and do improve outcomes for youth.

Melanie Adams, *Program Director, Friends of the Children-Chicago*

Track B: Healthy Chicago Equity Zones: Why Transformational Change Needs Long-Term Investment

Brown Ballroom II

With the goal of eliminating long-standing health and life-expectancy inequities in Chicago, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is leading a broad-based effort to address the root causes of inequities, namely the social determinants of health (SDoH) and the policies and systems that create and sustain these conditions, through "Healthy Chicago 2025". Healthy Chicago 2025 is the City's community health improvement plan that outlines strategies to close the racial life expectancy gap including the Healthy Chicago Equity Zones (HCEZs). This presentation will highlight hyper-local strategies of the Equity Zones, share thoughts on evaluating equity, and help attendees understand how partnerships are essential to community equity.

Nicole Marcus, *Program Analyst, Chicago Department of Public Health*

Genese Turner, *Director of Health Equity and Strategic Partnerships, Chicago Department of Public Health*

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Bone Student Center

10:45 – 11:45 AM

Track C: Building Healthier Communities through Community Health Worker Teams

Circus

This session will address how community health workers are an evidence-based model that can be a crucial member of the healthcare system to address health equity. Background information about community health workers and evidence for the utilization of community health workers to address health equity will be provided. In addition, an update on the state of community health workers in Illinois will be covered.

Tracey Smith, *Director of Community Health and Programs, Illinois Public Health Association*

Track D: Social Vulnerability and Asthma-Related Emergency Medical Services

Old Main

Despite a drop in the general prevalence of asthma in the country, Illinois has observed an increase in the number of cases. The association between the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and rates of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for asthma examines disparities before and during the COVID-19 pandemic that has not been previously examined.

M. Omar Khaium, *PhD Student, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

11:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Boxed Lunch

Brown Ballroom III

12:15 – 1:30 PM

Closing Session: Advancing the Healthcare System of Illinois Residents Through Illinois Legislation

Brown Ballroom III

As a state we have continued to support and expand comprehensive health care. Yet we continue to be challenged with the increased diagnosis of preventative chronic diseases, behavioral health, and obesity related illnesses. We must identify more access points to comprehensive health care and integrate those opportunities into spaces that provide recommended screening and behavioral health services to our most vulnerable populations. We must also prioritize consistent engagement and collaborations with medical homes that are physically accessible, have convenient primary and specialty care services and are staffed with capable, qualified and culturally competent providers.

The Honorable Doris Turner, *Illinois Senator District 48, Illinois General Assembly*