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HEAL Spring 2016 Learning Community Presenter Biographies

Katia Ahmed

Katia Ahmed currently serves as California's Action for Healthy Kids state coordinator, and is also currently working with Pasadena Unified School District as a consultant to coordinate and implement multiple obesity prevention programs for students, staff, parents and the community. She has worked in schools for nearly 15 years to create, educate and establish healthier environments for students, staff and parents. Ahmed has focused her efforts on healthy lifestyle changes and behavior modification through nutrition education and physical activity promotion. Her approach has been in developing and implementing wellness programs around the development and implementation of obesity prevention programs, student wellness policy, and Farm to School Initiatives. Ahmed holds multiple degrees in the area of health, nutrition and education.

Ama Atiedu

Ama Atiedu is the local evaluator for Kaiser Permanente Southern California Community Benefit's HEAL Zone and Healthy School Partnership initiatives and the Thriving Schools Partnership Grant. She holds a master's degree in Community Nutrition from Iowa State University and a master's degree in organizational development from Pepperdine University. Ama's previous evaluation experience includes working for the California Department of Public Health as a research associate and for Los Angeles Universal Preschool as a research and evaluation specialist. In that role, she conducted formative evaluation studies for the California 5 a Day (Champions for Change), a statewide social marketing campaign aimed at promoting fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity to prevent chronic diseases. Ama believes the components of organizational development, research, and evaluation each play a pivotal role in the evaluation process and her professional interests include merging the three components into one field.

Angela Coron

Angela Coron, MPH, is the managing director of Kaiser Permanente Southern California's Community Benefit program where she oversees more than 40 community health improvement initiatives and programs, including grant funding in the Southern California region. She joined Kaiser Permanente in 2005, bringing more than 30 years of health and human services management experience to her role as the department leader. During her tenure, Kaiser Permanente, in collaboration with local partners, has provided increased access to quality health care for the uninsured and underinsured, and initiated programs that make the healthy choice the easy choice in many communities. Prior to joining Kaiser Permanente, Coron served as associate director for Healthy Families and Medi-Cal Outreach in the California Department of Health Services. In this role, she was responsible for policy and program development within the department, and helped to oversee the addition of one million children to the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal programs. She also served as acting director of the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, where she managed a \$29 million portfolio and was the bureau manager for the City of Long Beach Human and Social Services for ten years. Coron earned her master's degree in public health from the University of California at Los Angeles, and she holds a bachelor of science in business administration. She is a founding board member for Long Beach Nonprofit Partnership, an organization that builds capacity for nonprofits. Coron serves as an advisor for several organizations, including the California Health Interview Survey.

Ninfa Delgado

Ninfa Delgado is vice president and chief operating officer at the Riverside Community Health Foundation (RCHF), providing day-to-day leadership and support to the over 20 health education and clinical programs in the Riverside area and facilitating community engagement for the Eastside Riverside HEAL Zone. Since 2003, she has designed and implemented numerous community health programs, including the Foundation's *promotora* program, *Mujeres Activas en la Salud*, and the Riverside Community Diabetes Collaborative. Prior to joining RCHF, Delgado served as a health care social worker for the Riverside County Department of Public Health, program developer for Inland Agency People Reaching Out and as an outreach counselor for the Youth Service Center. She serves on various local boards and committees including board chair of the UC Riverside Chicano Latino Alumni Chapter; vice president for Latino Network and board member for the Inland Empire American Heart Association. Delgado is also a member the Seizing our Destiny Champions Council, which is working towards achieving the City of Riverside's strategic vision. In 2015, she was a recipient of the 61st Assembly District Women of Distinction Award in recognition of her contributions to the community. In the same year, she received the Nia Imani Heart Association award for community service. Delgado, who has lived in Riverside for the past 24 years, is a graduate of the University of California, Riverside, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology/Ethnic Studies and a minor in Chicano Bilingual Bicultural Studies.

Danny Gamboa

Danny Gamboa currently serves as the project director for Empact Communities, and as the North Long Beach HEAL Zone community activator. In this role, he develops resident-led committees to advocate for physical activity and healthy eating policies, programs, and infrastructure. While he has long pushed for renewable energy, economic development, affordable healthy food access, and community building, his passion for alternative modes of transportation led him to establish Empact Long Beach. Empact Long Beach is a nonprofit whose primary goals are to empower communities of color as bicycle advocates and organize for equitable resources and an inclusive environment from local government, transportation, and healthcare agencies. Gamboa finds great success and satisfaction partnering with other organizations to encourage healthy living and promote safe, active transportation through bike rides, education and other transportation services, including Fleet Street, PATH Ventures, East Los Angeles Womens Shelter, Century Villages at Cabrillo, LA County Bicycle Coalition, East Side Riders, Los Ryderz, Black Kids on Bikes and Ghost Bikes. As a league certified instructor, he teaches free bicycle safety workshops in disadvantaged neighborhoods focusing on bicycle safety training, bicycle maintenance, and best practices for bike commuting, including micro bike shares and a free bicycle giveaway.

Judy Harper

Judy Harper is a senior program director at Community Partners, identifying, developing, and leading strategic initiatives (such as the Kaiser Permanente HEAL initiative) and providing organizational development support to a portfolio of fiscally sponsored projects. She brings nearly 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, designing programs, developing resources and providing technical and learning support for a wide range of nonprofit initiatives. Previously, Harper served as the associate director for the Border Philanthropy Partnership at the Synergos Institute, directed community development programs at MAAC Project's affordable housing communities, was program officer for San Diego Dialogue's cross-border and regional collaborative projects, and served as associate director for development at the San Diego Repertory Theatre. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Occidental College and master's degrees in urban planning and Latin American studies from University of California, Los Angeles. A former Fulbright Fellow in Mexico and a San Diego Rotary Club Ambassadorial Scholar in Brazil, she speaks fluent Spanish and Portuguese.

Barbara Masters

Barbara Masters is an independent consultant with more than 25 years of experience in health policy, working in philanthropy and local government as well as on Capitol Hill. During her tenure at The California Endowment, she led efforts to develop advocacy training and capacity-building programs, and effective methods to evaluate policy change activities. Masters served as vice president of the California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, and directed intergovernmental relations for the Los Angeles County Department of Health. She began her career in health policy as a legislative assistant for Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA). Masters holds a bachelor's degree with honors from the University of California, Berkeley; a master's degree in biology from the University of Colorado, Boulder; and graduate certification from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Nancy Mejia

Nancy Mejia is the director of the community engagement and advocacy department at Latino Health Access (LHA) in Orange County. She has been at LHA since 2011, overseeing community engagement, leadership development, and policy advocacy initiatives aimed at engaging underserved families from Santa Ana and Anaheim to improve the conditions that impact the health of their communities, including health-promoting land use and planning, safer neighborhoods, access to preventative health services, and healthy youth development. Before coming to LHA she was deputy director of the Institute for Health Equity at the City University of New York (CUNY), where she oversaw the implementation of the CUNY-Community Partnership for Public Health, a program seeking to impact the health of NYC communities by building the infrastructure of nonprofit community-based organizations. Mejia holds master's degrees in both public health and social work from Columbia University. While at Columbia, she was awarded the Heilbrunn Department of Population & Family Health Latino Fellowship, and conducted her master's Capstone research project with rural Haitian immigrant communities living in *bateyes* (sugar cane plantations) in the Dominican Republic. Mejia earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and Latin American studies with a minor in Spanish from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Arpiné Shakhbandaryan

As a program manager with Community Partners, Arpiné Shakhbandaryan provides technical assistance, peer learning opportunities, facilitation, and project management for the Southern California Kaiser HEAL Zone initiative and the Thriving Schools Partnership Grant. Previously, she worked at the City of El Monte coordinating the Policies for Livable, Active Communities and Environments initiative funded by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The program is dedicated to fostering policy change that supports the development of healthy, safe, and active environments for all community residents. Shakhbandaryan brings experience in policy and program development for healthy eating and active living initiatives, coalition building, and public sector, nonprofit, and community collaboration. She received a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in public health from the University of Southern California.

Loel Solomon

Loel Solomon, Ph.D., M.P.P., joined Kaiser Permanente's Community Benefit Program in 2003 and currently serves as vice president for community health. In this role, Dr. Solomon oversees the design, execution and evaluation of the organization's community-based programs, and leads efforts to ensure the Community Benefit Program's responsiveness to evolving community health needs. He also works closely with other health plan and medical group leaders to develop and implement Kaiser Permanente's multi-faceted strategy for addressing the social determinants of health, including its efforts to identify and address the social and non-medical needs of its members and the communities it serves. He is a co-founder of the Convergence Partnership, a collaborative of national funders which advances policy and environmental approaches to community health and a member of the Institute of Medicine's Roundtable on Obesity Solution, serving as chair of that panel's committee on clinic-community integration. Prior to coming to Kaiser Permanente, Dr. Solomon served as deputy director of the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development for Healthcare Quality and Analysis where he oversaw the state's hospital outcomes reporting program and analyses of racial and ethnic health disparities. He served as a senior manager at the Lewin Group in Washington, D.C. and as a member of Senator Edward Kennedy's health staff. Dr. Solomon received his Ph.D. in Health Policy from Harvard University and a master's degree public policy from the University of California, Berkeley.