



MISSOURI, IOWA, NEBRASKA, KANSAS
PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS

Speaker Information – In order of presentation

D. Charles Hunt, MPH - Department Director, Johnson County KS Department of Health and Environment



Charlie Hunt serves as Director of the Johnson County (KS) Department of Health and Environment, a position he assumed after serving for nearly two years as Deputy Director. Prior to his current role, Mr. Hunt was a Senior Analyst with the Kansas Health Institute (KHI), based in Topeka, Kansas, where he also served as Deputy Director of the Center for Sharing Public Health Services, a national initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and managed by KHI. Prior to his role at KHI, Mr. Hunt served for 19 years at the Kansas Department of Health and

Environment, including as State Epidemiologist and Director, Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics. Mr. Hunt started his career serving in various roles with the Johnson County (KS) Health Department. Mr. Hunt earned a master's degree in public health from the University of Kansas.

Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick - Vice Chair Johnson County KS Board of County Commissioners/Board of Health



Janeé Hanzlick is currently serving her second term on the Johnson County KS Board of County Commissioners, District 4. After over 35 years as a licensed master social worker, Janeé ran for office to strengthen housing, transit, mental health services, aging programs, and climate sustainability in Johnson County and throughout the Kansas City metro area. Prior to being elected, Janeé served as the CEO of Safehome, Johnson County's domestic violence agency, where she worked for 20 years. Commissioner Hanzlick presently serves as Chair

of the Board of the Mid America Regional Council (MARC), She is also the County Commission's liaison to the Johnson County Transportation Council (JCTC), and the Johnson County Commission on Aging. Commissioner Hanzlick earned a master's degree in social work (MSW) from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC, and she is a licensed master social worker (LMSW) in Kansas.

Gnora Mahs, Dr.P.H., M.P.H - Health & Democracy Coalitions Advisor



Gnora has deep roots in organizing, having grown up in a family dedicated to building community power. After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan University, she began her professional career as a community organizer, focusing on grassroots movements for reproductive health equity and voting rights in Oregon. She later earned her graduate degrees from the George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health in the Department of Health Policy and Management, where she was awarded a University Fellowship and conducted research on the relationship between voter participation and community health.

Lina Tucker Reinders, MPH – Executive Director of Iowa Public Health Association



Lina Tucker Reinders is the Executive Director of IPHA. She earned a bachelor's degree in human services, and a Master of Public Health from the University of Minnesota. Prior to serving as IPHA's Executive Director, Lina began her career in public health as an AmeriCorps VISTA community organizer in Minneapolis, later becoming the legislative liaison for tobacco control at the MN Department of Public Health, and a member of the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Since returning to the US, Lina has spent her time consulting on various public health projects ranging from social protection, global health system development, and maternal/child health, always with a focus on health equity. She became an active member of IPHA upon moving to Iowa in 2013, saying in her introductory speech as Executive Director, "I knew that if I wanted to be a part of the public health community in Iowa, I needed to join IPHA."

Julie Lubisi - Executive Director of Public Health Association of Nebraska, PhD(c), MPH, MPA, BSW



Julie has over two decades of experience advancing public health both locally and globally through advocacy, research, evaluation, and community-based practice. Her interdisciplinary work has addressed key issues such as HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, child welfare, immigrant and refugee health, and workforce development. She is currently a PhD candidate in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health, where her research explores how healthcare systems can better respond to gender-based violence. Outside of her professional commitments, Julie enjoys cheering on her daughter at volleyball games and planning her next travel adventure.

Sanna Schneeberger, M.A. - Executive Director of the Kansas Public Health Association



Sanna brings extensive experience in public health leadership, community engagement, and coalition-building, along with a deep commitment to advancing health equity across Kansas. Sanna's career has focused on fostering collaborative networks and supporting initiatives that build healthier, more resilient communities. Most recently, she worked with the University of Kansas Center for Community Health and Development's THRYVE project, addressing youth violence in Kansas City. At a time when the public health workforce faces significant challenges, Sanna's vision and leadership will be crucial in guiding KPHA's efforts to tackle pressing public health issues statewide. Sanna's master's degree in Community Agency Counseling from Hampton University reinforces her collaborative approach to organizational success. Outside of work, she enjoys family time with her husband, Noel, their five boys, and their dog, Nugget, as well as traveling and trying new eateries.

Maddy Popalis - Senior Research Associate, PH WINS



Maddy Popalis, MPH, is a Senior Research Associate at the de Beaumont Foundation. Her focus is on the Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PH WINS), the only nationally representative survey of the state and local government workforce. Before coming to the Foundation, she served as a research manager at Cancer Support Community where she supported the Cancer Experience Registry, a national survey of cancer patients and caregivers. There she contributed to both academic and participant-focused writing addressing unmet needs of those impacted by cancer. Maddy earned her MPH in Epidemiology & Biostatistics at Penn State, College of Medicine. While in graduate school, she worked as a research assistant for a project focused on identifying and removing barriers to cervical and colorectal cancer screening among rural women in Pennsylvania. Maddy holds a BA from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in Health Administration & Policy and Economics.

Georges C. Benjamin, – Executive Director of the American Public Health Association



Georges C. Benjamin, MD, is a well-known health policy leader, practitioner, and administrator. He currently serves as the executive director of the American Public Health Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization of public health professionals. He is also a former secretary of Health for the state of Maryland where he oversaw a \$4.5 billion agency. Dr. Benjamin is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He is board-certified in internal medicine, a Master of the American College of Physicians, a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, a fellow emeritus of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine. At APHA, he serves as the publisher for APHA Press, the American Journal of Public Health and The Nation's Health newspaper. In addition, he sits on the boards of Research! America (Vice chair) and the Environmental Defense Fund.

Heather Braum - Senior Policy Advisor, Kansas Action for Children



Heather joined KAC as the Health Policy Advisor in 2020 and now serves as Senior Policy Advisor. She focuses on Medicaid and CHIP health insurance for kids and families, as well as immunization and maternal health policy. She currently serves on the Kansas Maternal and Child Health Council, and previously served on the Immunize Kansas Coalition as policy chair. Thanks to more than a decade of experience in libraries and technology, she brings a passion for building coalitions, sharing information with lawmakers and partners, and finding common ground amidst differing opinions. A fifth-generation Kansan, Heather holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Oklahoma Baptist University and a master's degree in library and information science from Emporia State University. She lives in Topeka with her rescue kitties, Charis and Oliver, and enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, watching movies, and catching the occasional musical or symphony concert.

Corrie Day - Policy manager and Lobbyist, Nebraska Civic Engagement Table



Corrie Day, Esq., is the Policy Manager & Lobbyist at the Nebraska Civic Engagement Table, informally called the Nebraska Table. She graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law and began working for the Nebraska Table upon her bar passage in 2024. In her role, she oversees the Nebraska Table's policy analysis and outreach, runs the Lobby School and Youth Lobby School educational programs, and manages two cohorts of Policy Fellows placed at local nonprofits around the state. She strives to make policy accessible for everyone and encourages constituents to use their voice at the Nebraska State Capitol.

Xandy Harker - Special Projects Coordinator, Missouri Public Health Institute



Xandy Harker supports initiatives to strengthen Missouri's public health system. Her work includes advancing behavioral health crisis diversion in rural communities through research, data, and collaboration with behavioral health partners. She also assists local public health agencies pursuing accreditation and contributes to strategic efforts that promote health equity, support sound public health policy, and build strong partnerships across the state.

Caterine Satterwhite, PhD, MSPH, MPH - Executive Director of the Center for Population Health and Equity Kansas City University



Catherine Satterwhite, is the Executive Director of the Center for Population Health and Equity (CPHE) at Kansas City University (KCU). Offering degrees in osteopathic medicine, dentistry, clinical psychology, and biosciences, KCU's mission is to improve the well-being of the community we serve. CPHE works to build momentum around understanding and addressing the social factors that impact health by creating experiential learning opportunities for students in partnership with local organizations. Dr. Satterwhite previously worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. As the

Regional Health Administrator for Region 7, Dr. Satterwhite was the lead federal public health official for Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska. Dr. Satterwhite also spent time in academia as a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Kansas Medical Center. In her early career, she spent over a decade as an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A Kansas native, Dr. Satterwhite completed her academic training at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, and New York University.

Dr. Nalo Johnson, PhD – President and CEO Mid-Iowa Health Foundation



Originally from Des Moines, Dr. Nalo Johnson has spent her career as a public health professional, supporting community health efforts at both state and local levels. Nalo practices participatory, evidence-based methods to address community health concerns, centering addressing the social determinants of health as a strategy to reduce health disparities within the community. Prior to joining Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, Nalo was the Division Director for Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention at the Iowa Department of Public Health where she oversaw a broad range of programming including maternal and child health, nutrition and physical activity, chronic disease prevention and management, disability and wellness, injury prevention, and oral health. She was also the

Community Health Division Manager for the Johnson County Public Health Department in Iowa City where she oversaw the department's health promotion and communicable disease programs.

Nalo is grateful to have had her work recognized locally and nationally including being awarded the 2019 American Public Health Association Henrik L. Blum Award for Excellence in Health Planning, the Corridor Business Journal Forty Under 40 Award, and is a Ford Foundation Fellow. Dr. Johnson received her PhD from the University of Minnesota and her BA from Williams College in Massachusetts.

Ithar Hassaballa, Ph.D., M.P.H – Senior Analyst & Strategy Team Leader – Kansas Health Institute



Ithar Hassaballa, Ph.D., M.P.H., Senior Analyst & Strategy Team Leader, directs the work of the population health team. She leads a team that assists policymakers, stakeholders and communities with advancing evidence-based and equitable policies and programs that aim to improve the health of all Kansans. Prior to joining KHI, Ithar was at the University of Kansas Medical Center where she served as Evaluation Project Manager as part of a project focused on health equity and COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and infrastructure building among historically excluded populations in 20 Kansas counties. In that role, she supported 60 community health workers across Kansas in documentation of their efforts. Ithar served as Assistant Director &

Research Project Director at the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research, and Research Project Manager at the University of Kansas Center for Community Health & Development (CCHD). As part of CCHD, she led the evaluation of the Ebola response effort in partnership with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa. Further, as part of CCHD, Ithar led the Together Helping Reduce Youth Violence for Equity (ThrYve) Youth Violence Prevention Program in Kansas City. Ithar served as an Assistant Professor of Community Psychology at the American University in Cairo, New Cairo, Egypt, where she taught community psychology and worked with local organizations to evaluate their efforts and address poverty. Ithar currently serves as the president of the Mid America Alliance for African Studies, a group for researchers and practitioners within nine midwestern states that works to improve the conditions of communities within the African region and globally. Born in Sudan, Ithar is a Kansan with a global heart. Ithar earned a bachelor's degree in community health, a master's degree in applied behavioral science, and a doctorate in behavioral psychology with an emphasis in community health and development from the University of Kansas. She also earned her master's degree in public health from the University of Kansas Medical Center.



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