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Northwest Center for
Public Health Practice
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Sarita Hudson

PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE OF WESTERN MA

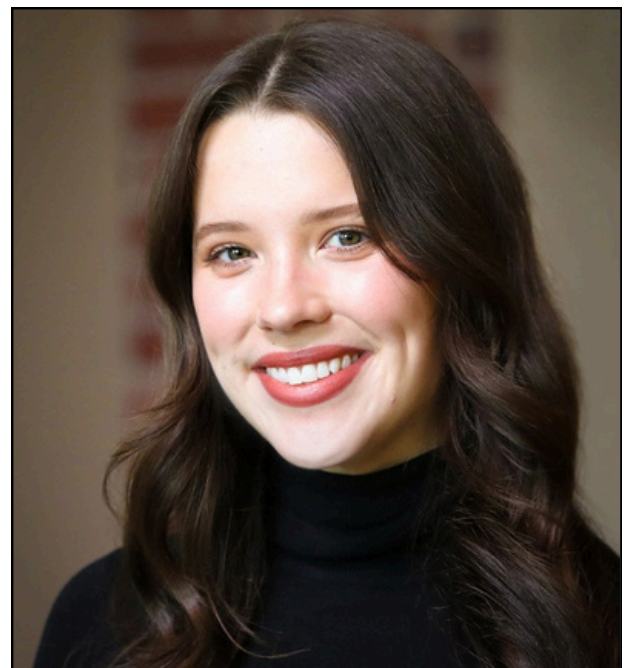
Sarita Hudson brings experience managing programs, developing coalitions, and building community capacity on issues including environmental health, climate action and resilience, sexual violence prevention, women's rights, and social justice. As Senior Director of Strategy & Development at the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, she leads Coalition Building and Convening, and her responsibilities include resource development, planning, program development, and organizational communications. She currently directs the Healthy Air Network, Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition, and the Springfield Healthy Homes

Collaborative. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the Massachusetts Asthma Action Partnership and the board of Massachusetts Public Health Association. Sarita holds a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School. Sarita was awarded the 2024 Luminary Award from the City of Springfield, which is awarded to recipients who have demonstrated leadership, excellence, and a commitment to improving community health in the City of Springfield. Other awards include the 2020 Partners Asthma Center Asthma Achievement Award and under her leadership, the Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition was awarded the 2019 EPA Region 1 Environmental Merit Award for Children's Health.

Emma Uridge

KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE

Emma Uridge, M.P.H., is an Analyst at the Kansas Health Institute. She currently conducts research and policy analysis on renewable energy and facilitates the Age-Friendly Public Health Systems initiative in Kansas. Emma has contributed to research on holistic care coordination and Medicaid expansion, and has co-facilitated state-level task forces focused on older adult care and crisis standards of care. Her research interests include sustainable built environments, environmental health, Health in All Policies, One Health, food and water systems security, and energy insecurity. Before joining KHI, Emma served as an Environmental Public Health Specialist and Investigator at the Kansas City Missouri Health Department. In this role, she focused on food safety, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and supporting the city's public health response during the COVID-19 pandemic. She earned her master's degree in public health with an emphasis on food safety and biosecurity from Kansas State University and holds a degree in community health education from the University of Kansas.



Mathilde Silverberg

LOUISIANA PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

Mathilde Silverberg works at LPHI as a Program Manager on the Capacity Building team to manage LPHI's role as the Region 6 Public Health Infrastructure Grant Technical Assistance Hub. Prior to this role, she was on the Policy and Equity team and helped develop LPHI's policy process, structure, and position platforms. She has 8 years of experience in Public Health and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Georgia and a Master of Public Health from Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health. Outside of work, Mathilde enjoys spending time with her husband and energetic rescue puppy, baking, and learning how to garden.



Carmela M. Roybal

NATIVE AMERICAN BUDGET AND POLICY INSTITUTE

Carmela M. Roybal, Ph.D., MBGPH, MA, is a senior adviser at the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She is also a research professor and executive director of the Native American Budget and Policy Institute at the University of New Mexico. Recognized as a trailblazer in health innovation, climate health, and Indigenous policy, Dr. Roybal's work addresses critical intersections of health, equity, and sustainability. Her research explores gender, medicine, indigeneity, and the multifaceted dynamics of state, tribal, and federal policy. Leveraging data and innovative approaches, Dr. Roybal develops transformative solutions to enhance the

health and life outcomes of Indigenous populations across the United States and globally. Dr. Roybal earned her Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico, with a focus on medical sociology and the sociology of race and ethnicity. She also holds a master's degree in Bioethics and Global Public Health from the American University of Sovereign Nations (AUSN), where she is a visiting professor. Her postdoctoral research at University College Dublin, Ireland, further expanded her expertise in social policy, social justice, and public health. A delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, Dr. Roybal is also treasurer of RC32 Women, Gender, and Society of the International Sociological Association, and a senior research fellow at the School of Indigenous and Global Studies at AUSN. She is a founding council member of the American Sociological Association's Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations Section. Through her leadership, Dr. Roybal is driving innovation and progress at the critical nexus of health, climate resilience, and Indigenous empowerment.



Mona Arora

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Dr. Mona Arora is an Assistant Research Professor at the College of Public Health. She obtained her Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) degree in Tropical Medicine from the Tulane University School of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene and has a doctorate degree in Geography from the University of Arizona. Dr. Arora currently leads the ADHS-CDC COVID Disparities Initiative at the Arizona Center for Rural Health aimed at mobilizing partnerships to advance health equity & address social determinants of health-related to COVID-19 health disparities among higher risk and underserved populations. Her research focuses on building the public health system's

capacity and capability to address global “wicked problems,” including pandemics, disasters, and climate change. She is a member of a multidisciplinary team of researchers focusing on understanding the pandemic's impacts on non-healthcare frontline worker health and well-being. The health impacts of climate change with a special focus on the usability of science for decision-making and models for translating science to action. Dr. Arora has over ten years of experience in emergency preparedness, workforce development, and community engagement. Dr. Arora has served on several national committees, including the Lancet Countdown U.S. Policy Brief Working Group, National Adaptation Forum Program Committee, and the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) Workgroup on Global Climate Change. Dr. Arora is a Co-Pi on the NIH-funded Southwest Center for Resilience on Climate and Health.

Emily Santich

COLORADO HEALTH INSTITUTE

Research and Policy Analyst Emily Santich is actively involved in the Colorado Health Institute's Acclimate Colorado initiative, which advances policies to protect human health against climate change. Emily brings her expertise in assessment and research to support Colorado partners -- including the Division of Insurance, the Governor's Office of Climate Preparedness and Disaster Recovery, and Kaiser Permanente -- in promoting community resilience to climate change. Emily earned a master's degree in public health from the Boston University School of Public Health with a focus in community assessment, program design, implementation, and evaluation. In her spare time, Emily enjoys adventuring outside, crafting, and spending time with her dog (Callie) and cat (Mocha).





Lauren Ruiz

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INNOVATION

In her role as a Senior Program Manager with IPHI, Lauren contributes to public health programs that improve health outcomes in Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Her work includes programs addressing community violence, policy strategies for Community Health Worker sustainability, systems to address primary care provider burnout, and collaborative solutions to address disparities in rural access to specialty neurologic care. Lauren has served more than 30 unique disease populations navigating complex, chronic health conditions during her 15-year career in health-related nonprofits. As the Director of a national patient assistance program, she oversaw programs delivering financial assistance grants, health insurance education and counseling, and Social

Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) education and representation. She maintained the organization's status as a Certified Application Counselor Designated Organization (CDO) under the Affordable Care Act, training and overseeing certified application counselors (CAC) on the federal Health Insurance Exchange. As the Program Manager for a national foundation serving people impacted by neurodegenerative diseases, she convened stakeholders, designed and implemented demonstration projects, and developed a competitive grants program that awarded more than \$1 million to 20+ grantee organizations nationwide. Lauren graduated from Virginia Tech with degrees in Political Science, Mass Communications, and English. She is an American Society on Aging RISE Fellow and a former CAC and certified financial counselor. She lives in Richmond, Virginia where she volunteers with local political advocacy organizations and is a member of several coalitions focused on aging, caregiving, environmental health, and other health-related topics. She is a Board Member for ACTS, a nonprofit organization with the mission to prevent and divert homelessness.

Tania Busch Isaksen

NORTHWEST CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

Tania Busch Isaksen is Teaching Professor and Undergraduate Program Coordinator for the UW Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences (DEOHS). In addition to her teaching and administrative responsibilities, she maintains an active, practice-based research portfolio focused on public health outcomes associated with extreme heat and wildfire smoke exposures; risk communication methods; climate change-related public health adaptation planning and response, and sustainable materials management. Tania has over 25 years of environmental public health experience working in local public, private, and academic settings. She earned her PhD from the UW in Environmental and Occupational Hygiene, her MPH from the University of Washington's eMPH Program, and her BS in Environmental Health from Colorado State University.





Makamae Namahoe

HAWAI'I PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

Since joining HIPHI in 2018, Makamae has coordinated the Hawaii Public Health Training Hui program and community-based initiatives focused on strengthening the capacity of our public health workforce in Hawaii and the US Affiliated Pacific Islands. Her work is centered on her background as a Native Hawaiian immersion student. She believes in health access and equity for all in Hawaii and across the Pacific Ocean. Makamae earned her BS in Nutrition and MPA from Long Island University. Her background includes student affairs operations and program management. In her spare time, you can find Makamae in the gym coaching volleyball for the University of Hawaii at Hilo Vulcans, spending time with family, finding new eateries, and being outdoors.

Alice Lina Liu

HAWAI'I PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

Alice Lina Liu is the Food Systems Program Manager at the Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI). In this role, she oversees initiatives that address food security, community resilience, and sustainable agriculture across Hawai'i, integrating strategic planning with community-driven solutions. Alice transitioned from a career as a marketing executive in Beijing, China, bringing her expertise in project management and strategic development to her work in Hawai'i. Since moving to the islands in 2019, she has immersed herself in organic farming, nonprofit leadership, and food distribution programs, blending hands-on experience with systems-level thinking to drive meaningful change in food systems. Alice holds a deep passion for advancing health equity through food systems transformation and fostering resilient, community-led solutions. Outside of work, Alice enjoys exploring the outdoors with her adventure cat, gardening, and foraging in Hawai'i's diverse landscapes.



Gerri Medina

HEALTH RESOURCES IN ACTION

Geraldine Medina, MPH, is a Senior Program Manager at Health Resources in Action, where she leads multiple environmental health projects focusing on topics such as air quality, climate resiliency, housing, asthma, and healthy schools. Gerri holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with a specialization in Environmental Health from the Boston University School of Public Health, a Climate and Health Certificate from the Yale School of Public Health, and a Certificate in Community Leadership and Social Change from the Institute for Nonprofit Practice in partnership with Tufts University.

