

Mariotta Gary-Smith is a native of Portland, OR; & a 3rd generation social justice activist/agitator deeply committed to working towards social justice, public health & sexual equity, in particular for communities of color/ethnic identity.

Mariotta completed her undergraduate & graduate work in Atlanta, GA (Agnes Scott College '95; Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University '08); and was one of 5 nationally selected scholars for the 2008-2009 Inaugural Class of the Center of Excellence for Sexual Health (CESH) Scholars Program at Morehouse School of Medicine. In 2009, she helped co-found the Women Of Color Sexual Health Network (WOCSHN; www.wocshn.org), a domestic & international online resource collective for women of color sexuality professionals.

With over 15 years of experience working with diverse/multicultural communities and organizations on reproductive/sexual health and justice, sexuality & health education and harm reduction, Mariotta continues to advocate for & provides safe spaces for open discussion/collaboration, as well as presenting at professional conferences, conducting trainings & workshops that educate women and girls of color about identity, sexual health, sexuality, safer sex behavior practices & sexual health advocacy.

Currently, Mariotta serves as the ASHEP (Adolescent Sexual Health Equity Health Program) Health Educator in the STD/HIV Program for the Multnomah County Health Department in Portland, OR.