



Developing Equity Leadership  
through Training and Action

## 2013 Cohort Bio-sketches

### **Sandra Clark**

#### **Health Share Oregon**

Sandra Clark is a project director for Health Share of Oregon, where her daily work is focused on developing and implementing systems-wide strategies to impact community health, with focus on health equity and cultural competence, housing, and chronic disease prevention. Prior to joining Health Share's staff, Sandra worked for Parkrose School District, Friends of the Children, Portland Women's Crisis Line, and Africa Bridge doing a number of projects aimed to empower and improve the lives of children and the communities where they live. She received her MPH from Oregon State University in 2010 with a focus on International Health and violence prevention. She was born in the same rural town in western Kentucky as bell hooks and moved to east Portland with her mother and brother when she was 10. In her spare time Sandra races bikes, reads critical literary theory, and cooks delicious casseroles (in no particular order).

### **Bonnie Corns**

#### **Yamhill County Public Health**

Bonnie Corns is the Community Health Manager and County Registrar at Yamhill County Public Health, located in McMinnville, Oregon. She has been in her current position since 2011.. Bonnie has been a vital part of the healthcare transformation efforts taking place in Yamhill County by serving on the Community Advisory Council and multiple workgroups addressing issues such as limited access to primary care providers and overuse of emergency medical services. Bonnie is currently serving on two CLHO committees, Healthy Communities and Healthy Structures. Bonnie became a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), by completing an examination for certification in 2004 and remains current on her credentials.

### **Jill Dale**

#### **Oregon Health Authority**

Jill Dale was born in Canada, is mostly white and the 6th of 8 children. Her family has long roots in the American West. Jill came to Oregon from Seattle with her Oregonian husband in 1984. She will be married 29 years in September. She also speaks Spanish conversationally (meaning that she is not a translator and understands more than she speaks). If Jill counts step-relationships, great nephews and nieces she has 47 nephews and nieces who live all over the world. Family is important to her. Jill's job with the Addictions and Mental Health Division started in 2008. From treatment counseling to the intense practice required to organize strategic prevention and wellness work in a community, she has been in the Addictions field for more than 20 years. At present, Jill monitors contracts in several counties and works with prevention coordinators in 36 counties and 9 tribes. As part of learning Organizational Psychology, and as a liaison with Drug Free Communities coalitions across the state, she

is a trainer on systems thinking, and offers technical assistance to communities with developing coalitions. Jill also loves music, loves to read and has a “unique” sense of humor.

### **Kellie DeVore**

#### **100% Access Coalition**

#### **United Way of Lane County**

Kellie DeVore is the Director of the 100% Access Coalition and the Associate Director for Health at United Way of Lane County. Kellie has been with the United Way since 2009, and has over fifteen years of experience in the non-profit sector. Kellie has held senior leadership positions with responsibility in advocacy, public policy, media and community relations related to health care, reproductive rights and access to post-secondary education. Kellie completed a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Oregon, with a Non-Profit Management Certificate, in 2009. She earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science at Linfield College.

### **Joyce Dougherty**

#### **Oregon Department of Education**

Joyce Dougherty, PhD, RD is the Director of Child Nutrition Programs for the Oregon Department of Education. Dr. Dougherty directs the operations of the Child Nutrition Programs by overseeing the administrative functions and support activities for the National School Lunch Program; School Breakfast Program; Child and Adult Care Food Programs; Afterschool Snack and Meals Program; Summer Food Service Program; Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program, USDA Foods Program, and the Farm to School and School Garden Program. These programs assist in serving healthy nutritious meals to children and developmentally disabled adults. Dr. Dougherty has a strong public health background and believes no child or adult should go hungry. Before joining the Oregon Department of Education, she worked at the Washington State Department of Health - Division of Community and Family Health.

### **Nurit Fischler**

#### **Oregon Health Authority**

Nurit Fischler is a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Policy Specialist for the Oregon Public Health Division's Office of Family Health. Her work spans program planning, design, assessment and evaluation; policy development, and the facilitation of state and local level systems initiatives to improve Maternal and Child Health. Social justice and health equity have always been core values that guide her life and work. Over the course of her career, Nurit has worked with public health and primary care systems, health education, outreach and access to care initiatives, community health promoter programs, healthcare interpretation, and migrant health. She currently provides leadership for the Center for Prevention and Health Promotion's Maternal Mental Health initiative, the MCH section's health equity work, as well as a variety of other perinatal health projects. She holds a Masters in Public Health Education from the University of Oregon, and a Bachelors of Science from Cornell University.

### **Rosa Sepulveda Klein**

#### **Health Share of Oregon**

Rosa Sepulveda Klein is the Chief Health Strategy Officer at Health Share of Oregon, Oregon's largest

Coordinated Care Organization, serving 160,000 members in the metro area. Rosa came to Health Share from Multnomah County Health Department's Office of Health Policy and Advocacy where she worked as a Policy Advisor, tracking and monitoring public health legislative issues and working to ensure that our elected officials take health equity and the social determinants of health into account when creating public policy. Prior to that Rosa worked in Environmental Health developing housing programs for people with health problems related to substandard housing conditions, particularly low income children with asthma. She earned a Master's degree in Public Policy from The Harvard Kennedy School and a Bachelor's from the University of California at Santa Cruz. She was born and raised in Grand Ronde, Oregon. Her international experience includes work as a policy analyst for UNICEF in Suriname, and as a Peace Corps Volunteer working to prevent HIV in high risk populations.

### **Lisa Ladendorff**

#### **Northeast Oregon Network**

Lisa has served as the founder and director of the Northeast Oregon Network since its inception in 2004. She has a 20-year history of clinical practice as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, specializing in the dynamics of behavior change, including health behavior change. She served as a local public health administrator for four years and was a member of a team CEO model for three years. In addition to serving as NEON's director, she has trained, mentored and supervised public health and community mental health leadership staff for more than 16 years. She served as the Quality Assurance Coordinator for a public health/mental health organization for 11 years. Lisa has also provided organizational consulting and technical assistance to health-oriented organizations. Lisa spent 17 years of her career working in a self-directed team environment, and has a long history of effective collaborative work. She is a graduate of both the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice Leadership Institute, and the UCLA Anderson School of Management Health Care Executive Summer Intensive Training Program. She has presented at several state and national conferences on the use of rural health assessment data in developing locally-based community health solutions. Lisa is bi-lingual in Spanish.

### **Holden Leung**

#### **Asian Health & Service Center**

Mr. Holden Leung is the Executive Director of the Asian Health & Service Center (AHSC). Mr. Leung joined the agency in 1992 as a mental health clinician and took the leadership position since 1998. Mr. Leung was born and raised in Hong Kong. He carried out undergraduate studies in Canada and returned to Hong Kong Chinese University to complete graduate studies in social work. In addition to being responsible for the overall success of the Center, Mr. Leung integrates his cultural and clinical knowledge into his work, and has been a strong advocate on cultural competency for the needs of the Asian community. In 2011, Mr. Leung co-founded The Alliance of Culturally-Specific Behavioral Health Providers and serves as the co-chair. The Alliance's Goal for Health Care Transformation is to be recognized as key and active partners to implement strategic health care integration goals for racially and ethnically diverse populations. Currently, Mr. Leung is serving at the Regional Behavioral Health Steering Community and the Cultural Competency Work group of the Health Share of Oregon and member of the Board of Directors of the Tri-County Behavioral Health Providers Association. At AHSC, Mr. Leung has developed an Integrated and Holistic Services Model, which addresses the comprehensive

wellness needs of the Asian community in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. Services include Community Engagement, Prevention for Chronic Disease, and Living Well with Chronic Disease, Mental Health and Chinese Medicine. The Center currently has close to 8,000 members and service encounters have reached 56,000 a year.

### **Lydia (Mimi) Luther**

#### **Oregon Health Authority**

Mimi Luther is a 50-something single parent to 18-year-old triplets, and the manager of the Oregon Immunization Program's Provider Services Team. Mimi just begun her 15<sup>th</sup> year with Oregon's Public Health Division, and very much enjoys her work there. Prior to her work in public health, Mimi worked at Cascade AIDS Project for seven years, at the Oregon Health Decisions nonprofit for three years, and running Neighborhood Health Clinics for five years.

### **Shafia Monroe**

#### **The International Center for Traditional Childbearing**

Shafia M. Monroe is a veteran midwife certified by the Massachusetts Midwives Alliance, a Certified Childbirth Educator, a Doula Trainer, a professional speaker and founder of the International Center for Traditional Childbearing (ICTC). She holds a BA in sociology, with a concentration in medical sociology from the University of Massachusetts and a Master of Public Health from Walden University. She advocates for increasing the number of African descent midwives and their having a seat at the decision making table for the advancement of the profession. She campaigns for health equity and works on local and national legislation to improve maternal and child health and newborn care. She originated the legislative concept for HB3311, so that every woman can access a doula. She has trained over five-hundred doulas nationally and has trained midwives in Columbia and Sierra Leone. She is a wife, mother, a nana, and a mentor to women aspiring to be midwives and doulas. She loves to garden, write, ride horses and cook for family and friends. Shafia's has received numerous awards for her groundbreaking work and has been featured in books, magazines, documentaries and on a mural in Portland, OR.

### **Jennifer Pratt**

#### **Oregon Primary Care Association**

Jennifer began her career as a community organizer and low-income home developer in inner-city D.C. and the slums of India. Returning to the U.S., she became a Presidential Management Fellow taking on the role of rural development policy advisor and program manager. Tiring of both the hot heads and hot summers of D.C, Jennifer moved to Oregon, and from 1999 - 2007 was a strategy and organizational development consultant to an array of health care organizations. Joining the Oregon Primary Care Association in 2007, Jennifer has served as Deputy Director of the organization as well as its Policy Director. While still overseeing for the policy division, she is no longer Director, and instead leads a multi-year demonstration project ("It Takes a Neighborhood") focused on more deeply nesting the patient-centered medical home into its health neighborhood and addressing systems barriers and the social determinants of health. Jennifer's passion lies in these social and economic determinants of

health and, to that end, she currently serves on the boards of and volunteers with service organizations focused on these causes. Jennifer holds a Master's Degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Community and Organizational Development.

### **Juan Ramirez**

#### **Volunteers of America**

Juan came to the United States from Mexico in 1979. At that time, the door to a new world was opened to him. For the first time, he saw another society up close and his own from a distance. Through this new perspective, he saw each more clearly. These observations and experiences have had an incredible impact on his personal life, causing him to refine his personal and professional goals. For Juan, becoming an American citizen was the culmination of achieving a sense of belonging. This accomplishment left him with a deep feeling of hope and gratitude. He is proud of his achievements during the years he has lived in this country. Growing up in Mexico and staying in touch with his culture of origin puts Juan in a position to help other immigrants work towards achieving their dreams. Juan's experiences have completely reshaped the way in which he views the world and the ways in which he approaches his work. He has moved from seeing life strictly on a micro level to having the ability to see matters on a macro level as well. Juan considers himself to be much more global minded as a result of being exposed to other cultures. He believes that with an increasingly interdependent and intolerant world, it is more important than ever to have a good understanding of those with whom we coexist. For the last two and half years Juan has worked as a Youth and Family Specialist for Volunteers of America, where he provides comprehensive drug and alcohol prevention services to youth and their families at targeted public housing developments managed by the Housing Authority of Portland. In his role, he emphasizes the delivery of services to the Latino population, because of his bicultural, bilingual skills. Juan's philosophy is influenced by an old Mexican saying, "Cada Cabeza es un Mundo," which roughly translates into every person has a valuable story to tell and a lesson to learn.

### **Cassandra (Cass) Skinner**

#### **Trillium Community Health Plans**

Cassandra (Cass) Skinner currently holds the positions of General Counsel and Health Equity Officer for Trillium Community Health Plans, the new Coordinated Care Organization in Lane County, serving Medicaid and Medicare recipients. In addition to her positions with Trillium, Cass was appointed by Governor John Kitzhaber to serve as the Chair of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission's Board of Commissioners in 2011 and has been a member of the OLCC's Board of Commissioners since June 2009. She also currently serves on the Board of Directors for Oregon Women Lawyers. Her broad range of community service has previously included positions on the Governor's Council on Domestic Violence, the Lane County Human Rights Advisory Committee, the Board of Directors for Breaking Free, and the Board of Directors for Head Start of Lane County. She also served as a volunteer for the Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force and Lane County Legal Aid. Cass is a graduate of the University of Oregon School of Law.

### **Anastasia Sofranac**

#### **Oregon Center for Nursing**

Anastasia Sofranac is a Program Manager at Oregon Center for Nursing, overseeing collaborative leadership and diversity/inclusion programs and events for nurses throughout the state. Anastasia has over 10 years of nonprofit program management experience and received her Master's in Global Leadership & Nonprofit Management at Portland State. Locally, she served on the boards of the Montavilla Food Co-op and Save a Survivor's Smile (formerly the Council for Prostitution Alternatives). She originally hails from Phoenix, AZ, but also lived in Ohio, Finland, and China before moving to Portland in 2002.

### **Maria Ramos Underwood**

#### **La Clinica**

As development director for La Clinica since 2005, Maria oversees the organization's fundraising, from writing and tracking grants to working with donors and community partners dedicated to improving community access to health care. Previously Maria served as the organization's deputy director and wellness and prevention coordinator. Before joining La Clinica, she was Hispanic outreach advocate for Dunn House, a Jackson County shelter for women. She worked her first year out of college for an Early Head Start program in Arizona. Her community service includes membership on the Oregon Shakespeare Festival board. She is also on the advisory board for Ballet Folklorico Ritmo Alegre and Uno Voz, a group dedicated to improving quality of life for Latinos in the region. Maria graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in sociology.

### **Kate Wells**

#### **PacificSource**

Kate Wells is the Director of Community Health Development for PacificSource Health Plans. In her role, Kate supports the development of community-based care as part of PacificSource's Coordinated Care Organization in Central Oregon and the Columbia Gorge. She also provides leadership on a number of population health improvement initiatives in partnership with local public health and community-based organizations that serve vulnerable populations. Prior to joining PacificSource, Kate was Director of Community Outreach for St. Charles Health System, where she developed and oversaw Kids@Heart, a regional collaboration to address childhood and adolescent obesity. The program was the recipient of the 2012 Deschutes County Public Health Heroes Award. Kate received a B.S. in Behavioral Psychology from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

### **Jeri Williams**

#### **Office of Neighborhood Involvement**

Jeri Williams manages the Diversity and Civic Leadership program which funds underserved communities to engage in Civic Engagement with the City of Portland. Before joining the City of Portland in 2006, Jeri was the Director of the Environmental Justice Action Group a group that defeated the expansion of the I-5 freeway through Northeast Portland. She was introduced to environmental justice issues in 1994 while working as a hotel worker exposed to toxic chemicals. From there, she became an organizer for the Workers Organizing Committee and has worked in that field for 17 years

developing leadership in people of color to use their own voices to speak for themselves. A great public speaker , she has spoken to many colleges, churches and other groups on the topics of human rights, organizing, social justice and sex trafficking. One of her favorite things to do is art –she writes, paints and makes jewelry. The other favorite way to spend her time is with her 4 grown children and 9 grandchildren. Jeri is a Native Oregonian and a member of the Klamath tribe which was federally recognized in 1986 after being terminated by the US government in the 1950's. She dedicates her free time to work with victims of human trafficking, sustainability, community organizing and environmental justice.

## **Office of Equity and Inclusion, Staff Bio-sketches**

### **Carol Cheney**

#### **Equity Manager**

Since 2010, Carol has served as the Equity Manager for the Oregon Health Authority Office of Equity and Inclusion. A graduate of the University of Oregon, Carol's field of study focused on women and people of color and her commitment to gender, racial, and LGBTQ justice. She has worked for the last 22 years in organizations promoting social change as case manager for survivors of domestic violence, health educator, fundraiser, and nonprofit organizational development consultant and trainer. Her public health experience includes administering grants to increase cancer screening rates for women of color and managing sexual health education programs. Carol was born in Seoul, South Korea and was adopted at 13 months with her twin sister. She grew up on a wheat and alfalfa ranch in Eastern Oregon, and her early adult work included working in the fields with Migrant Farmworkers. She loves adventure travel with her partner Kris, which has included bike touring through the Canadian Rockies, canoeing through the Canyonlands of Utah, and trekking to Mt Everest Base Camp. Closer to home, she likes to knit, bike, and knock out a few songs at a karaoke joint.

### **Leann R. Johnson**

#### **Diversity, Civil Rights and Inclusion Manager**

Leann Johnson is the Diversity, Civil Rights and Inclusion Manager for the Oregon Health Authority in the Office of Equity and Inclusion. She holds a master's degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology with program focus in Multicultural Organizational Development and Indigenous Psychology. Leann also has a B.S. in Communications Management from the University of Portland. Leann has nearly 20 years of leadership experience developing equity, diversity and intercultural programs in the public and non-profit sectors. Past employers include Clark College, the City of Vancouver and the YWCA of Clark County. She has also served as a consultant to multiple agencies and organizations including the Vancouver Police Department, PGE, Bonneville Power Administration, Hewlett Packard and the Southern Poverty Law Center. Leann is also a Qualified Administrator for the Intercultural Development Inventory. In addition to her professional career Leann has dedicated years of service to the Girls Scouts, including five years as the volunteer director for Camp Julianna and was a CYO track and field coach for six years. More recently Leann completed seven years as a member of the Governor's appointed Washington State Arts Commission, serving as chair of that commission for two years. Leann is the mother of two grown daughters, one who attends Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma and the other who attends Emory University in Atlanta. In her spare time Leann enjoys theater, participating in a number of improvisational comedy theater troupes in Vancouver and Portland.

### **Tricia Tillman**

#### **Administrator**

Tricia Tillman assumed the role of Administrator for the Oregon Office of Equity and Inclusion in May 2009. Prior to this, she served as a program manager at the Multnomah County Health Department in Portland. She initiated and managed the county's Health Equity Initiative and the African American

Sexual Health Equity Program. She was also a co-chair for the department's Diversity and Quality Team. Ms. Tillman's goals throughout her career have been to promote a highly qualified, diverse workforce, to engage communities experiencing disparities in health and human services, and to identify and reduce health disparities. She has worked in various capacities in maternal, child and community health over the last 16 years, coordinating efforts to improve the health of disadvantaged populations in Arizona, Massachusetts, and Oregon. Focusing on vulnerable communities of color, she has used strategies that include community organizing, participatory research, popular education and political advocacy. Ms. Tillman earned a prestigious Martin Luther King Fellowship from Boston University as well as a public health fellowship through the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. She received her master's degree in public health from Boston University and her bachelor's degree in political science from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. A third generation Oregonian, Tricia enjoys watching her son play soccer and lacrosse, as well as watching live music, attending cultural events, and skiing.

### **Charniece Tisdale** **DELTA Coordinator**

Charniece moved to Portland in October 2012 to work at the Oregon Health Authority in the Office of Equity and Inclusion as a Center's for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Prevention Specialist. In her role, she coordinates the Developing Equity Leadership through Training and Action (DELTA) leadership development pilot program, and helps provide technical assistance to health-related organizations throughout Oregon. Her previous experiences have included planning, implementing and evaluating public health research, programs and community-based initiatives in various settings including non profits, hospitals and universities. Her desire to address equity stemmed from working on a critical race media literacy study in undergrad. From that point, she has tried to incorporate issues of disparities into all aspects of her work. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan, School of Public Health. Charniece's personal interests include photography, blogging, event planning, volunteering, biking, running, traveling and being a foodie.

### **Anita Yap** **Training Coordinator**

Anita Yap is the Training Coordinator for the Oregon Health Authority, Office of Equity and Inclusion. Anita will be coordinating training programs for the DELTA program, as well as with internal and external stakeholders. Anita has over 20 years of experience in community development, public engagement, environmental health and community organizing. She holds a Masters in Urban & Regional Planning, Planning Public Policy and Management from the University of Oregon and a Bachelors of Science from Oregon State University. Anita is an Oregonian, having attended school in East Portland and lived and traveled in many areas of the state of Oregon. Anita and her husband have four children and currently live in SE Portland.