

## The Association of State Public Health Nutritionists Biographical Sketch of Candidates for 2022 Election

**Candidate for the office of:** Director at Large

**Name:** Chris Mornick

**Credentials:** MPH, RDN

**Title:** Nutrition Coordinator

**State Agency:** Washington State Department of Health



### **ASPHN Activities:**

- ASPHN member since 2017 and Designee for Washington since 2020.
- Policy Committee member since 2018, stepped up to fill vacant co-chair role 2021 - present
- 2021 ASPHN awardee for Outstanding Leadership for the National Fruit & Vegetable Nutrition Council for leading Washington's work in [Farm to Early Care and Education](#)
- Annual Meeting Planning Committee Member 2021
- Alumni of Growing ASPHN Leaders Program 2018-2019
- Member of the NOPREN-ASPHN Communications Group since 2020
- Contributor to ASPHN comments for many federal policies and programs, including: SNAP; the Thrifty Food Plan; the Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus; school meals; and the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- Featured in the [ASPHN Hall of Fame](#) and on the new [Policy Committee website](#).

### **Briefly describe why you are interested in filling this position:**

I am passionate about policy, systems and environmental change that supports equity and everyone's full potential for health and well-being. In this role, I hope to bring my experience working with state and national partners, supporting local communities, partnering with tribal organizations, and participating in ASPHN activities to support health, equity and cultural-relevance within ASPHN, among our partnerships and in federal nutrition programs and policies.

I joined ASPHN in 2017 because of a desire to learn more about how public health nutritionists can pull together to make effective, equitable and lasting change both at the state and federal level. I volunteer my time to the policy committee, submit comments and participate in events because I believe in the mission of ASPHN to strengthen nutrition policy, programs and environments for ALL people through development of public health nutrition leaders and collective action of members nationwide. As someone who reviews board reports, has worked within the nutrition programs ASPHN is involved with and alongside so many of you, I believe I that I can use my leadership

experience to help shape the future direction of ASPHN for the benefit of our members and the communities that rely on us.

### **Other Related Activities (professional and/or personal):**

As Nutrition Coordinator at the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), I lead Washington's work in support of nutrition guidelines in worksites and community settings. This includes working with our state Department of Corrections to [adopt and implement menus that align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#) at our 12 state correctional facilities, partnering with Special Olympics Washington to [develop nutrition guidelines and adopt a Healthy Food and Beverage Policy](#) (the first for any Special Olympics organization), and working with our state agencies to [improve access to healthy options](#) in our vending machines, micro-markets and cafeterias. I also work on promoting nutrition, physical activity and breastfeeding/chestfeeding in early learning. This involves developing trainings, tools and resources on our [Nourished and Active in Early Learning](#) website as well as leading our state's work on [farm to early care and education](#). My work is funded by CDC's State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) grant and further supported by ASPHN's Farm to ECE Implementation Grant (FIG). It's also heavily reliant on partnerships with other nutrition programs (e.g Farm to School, SNAP-Ed, CACFP), state agencies, local and regional health departments, non-profits, and community members.

As a member of the Healthy Eating Active Living Program at DOH, I helped spearhead efforts to revise our mission/vision and develop a strategic plan that aligns our work with the priorities of our partners and the communities we serve. This includes centering equity in all the work we do. I've also provided almost 2000 hours of supervised practice to dietetic interns, learning from and building up our future workforce.

In addition to my work in Washington state, I also collaborate with many organizations to help lead national efforts in public health nutrition. Examples include:

- Participating in multiple workgroups led by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) and the American Heart Association (AHA) to develop resources on nutrition guidelines, including [A Roadmap for Comprehensive Food Service Guidelines](#) and [Strategies to Optimize Food and Nutrition in Correctional Facilities](#).
- Contributed to multiple publications led by ASPHN including the [Vendors Training Guide Tool](#) and the [Obesity Prevention in Rural Early Care and Education Settings Compendium](#)
- Participate in the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity's (NANA) Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) workgroup, helping to draft comments for the 2020-2025 DGA and share model comments with ASPHN.
- Member of the food service guideline and early childhood workgroups of the Nutrition & Obesity Policy Research & Evaluation Network (NOPREN). I've presented four times on nutrition guidelines work and share weekly updates from the early childhood workgroup with the ASPHN Policy Committee.

- Washington representative on the Western Maternal and Child Health Nutrition Leadership Network, providing mentorship and support to MCH trainees interested in public health nutrition.

When not doing nutrition work, I enjoy cooking, traveling, reading, hiking, cross country skiing and spending time with my family.