

Children's Healthy Weight State Capacity Building Program

National Advisory Group

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Evaluation Team

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National Advisory Group

Anna Corona



Anna Corona, MPH, CPH is the Senior Program Manager, Child & Adolescent Health at the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP). In this role, Anna provides program implementation, quality improvement, and systems building expertise to her team members and state Title V MCH programs on several key topics in maternal and child health, including: early childhood systems, adolescent and young adult health, nutrition across the lifespan, and food security.

Ms. Corona has several years of experience with state health departments, having previously served as a Senior Public Health Nutritionist and Site Supervisor for a local WIC program under the Virginia Department of Health and as a Health Policy Specialist in tobacco prevention for the Florida Department of Health.

Areas of Expertise: MCH / Public Health Competencies; National Performance Measures; Nutrition - Early Childhood; Nutrition - Food Security; Nutrition - Health Outcomes; Partnership Development; Title V; Workforce Development

Can offer states: Support in centering equity in their work; support in partnering with community-based organizations doing food security work; support with systems-level approaches to addressing food insecurity; connection with other Title V programs doing similar work.

Julie Donney



Dr. Julie Donney, PhD, MPH is a Public Health Analyst for the Division of Epidemiology in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Office of Epidemiology and Research. Julie is part of the National Survey of Children's Health Team and conducts original research on child and family health. Prior to her work at MCHB, she had 12 years of MCH program planning, implementation, and evaluation experience at the state and local levels, and

taught undergraduate and graduate courses on MCH topics for 8 years. Her previous research focused on promoting flourishing during early childhood, mental health of teen parents and their children, parenting practices of Latino immigrant parents of adolescents, perceptions of housing affordability, child abuse prevention, and promoting oral health during pregnancy. She holds a PhD from the University of Maryland's School of Public Health and an MPH from the University of Montana's School of Public and Community Health Sciences.

Areas of Expertise: Data Analysis; Data Sources; Epidemiology; Evaluation design; National Performance Measures; Writing outcomes for different stakeholder groups

Can offer states: measurement and analysis support, evaluation support

Dena Herman



Dena Herman, PhD, MPH, RD is a Professor at California State University Northridge, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and is a trained pediatric nutritionist. She is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, Department of Community Health Sciences, where she directs the MCH Nutrition Leadership Training Program, which includes the Western MCH Nutrition Leadership Network (NLN). The NLN covers the 13 Western states including Hawaii, Alaska, and Inter-Tribal Councils. Her research and programmatic interests span childhood obesity, food security, and improving dietary quality for underserved communities, particularly with the WIC program. With respect to workforce development, she focuses on training leaders, building systems, connecting partners, and developing policies to improve the health of vulnerable MCH populations. She has spent the past 5 years developing training resources with her training faculty colleagues for Individual + Policy, System, and Environmental (I + PSE) approaches and currently has an emerging practice with AMCHP's Innovation Station (http://www.amchp.org/programsandtopics/BestPractices/InnovationStation/ISDocs/I+PSE_Innovation%20Station%20Handout.pdf) focusing on implementation of these approaches.

Tagtow A, Herman D, Cunningham-Sabo L. Next-Generation Solutions to Address Adaptive Challenges in Dietetics Practice: The I+PSE Conceptual Framework for Action. *J Acad Nutr Diet.* 2022;122(1):15-24. doi:10.1016/j.jand.2021.01.018

Areas of Expertise: Data Analysis; MCH / Public Health Competencies; Nutrition - Early Childhood; Nutrition - Food Security; Nutrition - Health Outcomes; Nutrition Strategies; Partnership Development; Workforce Development; Working with underserved communities; Leadership training, I + PSE approaches

Can offer states: Leadership training, training in I + PSE approaches and evaluation specifically designed for MCH practitioners (Healthy Eating Active Living - HEAL), mindfulness training

John Richards



John Richards is a research professor at Georgetown University. He serves as executive director for the National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health. He currently leads the MCH Navigator, Strengthen the Evidence for MCH Programs, and the HealthCheck Training and Resource Center. For over twenty years, he has worked on a range of MCH initiatives at Georgetown University, including the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center, the Title V Information System, the National Partnership to Promote Safe Sleep, Bright Futures, and the Healthy Start National Resource Center. He is the lead author on several studies that examine the intersection of outcomes-based technology and public health; he also lectures at George Washington University and American University.

Areas of Expertise: Coalition Development; Evaluation design; MCH / Public Health Competencies; National Performance Measures; Partnership Development; Team Building; Title V; Writing outcomes for different stakeholder groups; Workforce Development; Working with underserved communities

Can offer states: John has experience in understanding the evidence base for effective public health programs, developing a plan based on the evidence to include partners and strategies that can have impact, and developing an approach to measure and evaluate the program. He is also skilled in providing workforce development and developing/evaluating evidence-based resources.

Bonnie Spear, Chair



Bonnie A. Spear, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND is currently Professor of Pediatrics Emerita from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has recently returned to UAB from retirement to help with the implementation of the Nutrition Training Program. She has had over 40 years of experience working in adolescent health, wellness, childhood obesity and pediatric nutrition. She is widely published in the field of adolescent and pediatric nutrition. Dr. Spear served as the lead author on the *Expert Committee Recommendations for the Treatment of Child and Adolescent Obesity*. She also served as one of the co-authors for the AND 2014 *Consensus Statement of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics/American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition: Indicators Recommended for the Identification and Documentation of Pediatric Malnutrition (Undernutrition)* and recently served on the AND EAL group to identify screening tools for addressing pediatric malnutrition (2020 JAND publication) and a systematic review of Food Insecurity (2020 JAND publication). In conjunction with Association of State Public Health Nutritionist she serves on the steering committee for the development and implantation of the Healthy Weight CoIIN funded by MCHB which is also working to develop a potential MCHB National Performance Measure on Food Insecurity. She is Nana to 4 grandchildren who she enjoys playing with and spoiling them. Since her retirement she has started playing Mah Jongg which she describes as fun and mentally challenging.

Areas of Expertise: MCH / Public Health Competencies; National Performance Measures; Nutrition - Early Childhood; Nutrition - Food Security; Nutrition - Health Outcomes; Title V; Working with underserved communities

Can offer states: setting up outcome measures, Performance measures

Keriann Uesugi



Dr. Uesugi, PhD, MPH is the Health Scientist for the Division of State and Community Health in MCHB. Dr. Uesugi is a maternal and child health epidemiologist who leads the reporting of the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant National Outcome and Performance Measures and supports technical assistance to the States around the Performance Measurement Framework and use of evidence-based/informed practices. Prior to joining MCHB, Dr. Uesugi was a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health where she led applied MCH epidemiology research and evaluation projects for state and federal programs. Her earlier work focused on Maternal and Child Nutrition. She spent 10 years working on intervention development to improve infant and young child feeding and maternal nutrition during and after pregnancy. Her dissertation research at Cornell University blended nutrition, food science, and mixed methods research to design infant and young child feeding interventions using processed complementary foods in rural Tanzania and Zimbabwe. She shifted focus for her postdoctoral research and supported the development of a web-based intervention to prevent excessive gestational weight gain and postpartum weight retention in Rochester, NY. After moving to New Jersey, she worked at Nestlé Infant Nutrition and combined her expertise to coordinate the development of a web-based nutrition education intervention to improve infant feeding practices and reduce the risk of early childhood obesity. After another move to Chicago, IL, she continued to consult at Nestlé while she started both working at UIC to develop and evaluate a pilot program to increase child retention in the Illinois WIC program and studying for her MPH. She holds a Ph.D. in Human Nutrition from Cornell University and an M.P.H. in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health.

Areas of Expertise: Data Analysis, Data Sources, Epidemiology, Evaluation – Outcome, Evaluation design, national Performance Measures, Nutrition – Early Childhood, Nutrition – Food Security, Nutrition – Health Outcomes, Nutrition Strategies, Title V, Writing outcomes for different stakeholder groups, Working with underserved communities, Nutrition – Pregnancy and Postpartum, Breastfeeding

Can offer states: I have expertise in developing interventions for the maternal and early childhood population, conducting formative research to help design interventions, evaluation design, qualitative and quantitative data analysis, nutrition and behavior change theory, nutrition data sources, state and local breastfeeding coalition work, WIC, Title V, and developing consumer education materials.

Additional Expert Advisors

Meg Bruening



Meg Bruening, PhD, MPH, RD currently co-leads the Arizona State University College of Health Solution's translational science team in Maternal Child Health. As part of that work, she supports research and evaluation for underrepresented families in Arizona in order to promote health equity, through community and state-level collaborations. Her personal research program develops, implements, and evaluates behavioral interventions to improve eating behaviors and advance health equity for low-income, diverse communities - with a focus on food insecurity. She has been PI/MPI on multiple NIH grants and served as an investigator on projects totaling more than \$17million in federal funding. She currently leads a project in 37 schools in Arizona to evaluate the efficacy of school salad bars. As part of her current portfolio, she also directs a training grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the TRANSCEND Program, which provides leadership, education, and training to graduate nutrition students as well as MCH nutrition professionals in the field. Dr. Bruening earned her bachelor's degree in Nutrition Sciences at Penn State. She then went on to receive her MPH and PhD from the University of Minnesota.

Areas of Expertise: Coalition Development; Data Analysis; Epidemiology; Evaluation design; MCH / Public Health Competencies; National Performance Measures; Nutrition - Food Security; Team Building; Title V; Writing outcomes for different stakeholder groups; Workforce Development; Working with underserved communities

Can offer states: I am more than happy to provide technical assistance in many areas as it relates to child nutrition. In addition, we have had great success in addressing state needs through MS student theses (with oversight from faculty and state partners).

W. Oscar Fleming (Oscar)



Dr. Oscar Fleming's work focuses on expanding capacity of the public health workforce to understand and respond to complex systems - how they influence health and wellbeing and how to collaboratively design and implement possible public health solutions within them. His work focuses on how change happens as much as what the change is, recognizing the inequitable methods reinforce and exacerbate inequitable outcomes and systems. Dr. Fleming began his career supporting HIV prevention education on the National AIDS Hotline and caring for people living with AIDS in the years before antiretroviral treatment. He served in the Peace Corps in Guinea, West Africa (1994-1996) before completing his MSPH at UNC in 1999. Over last 20-plus years his work has included in the US Senate to reauthorize of the Ryan White CARE Act; support for health and community development programs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America; and strengthening capacity of early childhood development systems in

Eastern North Carolina. Dr. Fleming leads the Evidence-Based Decision-Making and Implementation Core for the National Maternal and Child Health Workforce Development Center, based at Gillings School of Global Public Health. In this role he supports public health professionals to learn and apply implementation science to improve public health programs, policies, and practices that promote child and family well-being. Dr. Fleming is an Assistant Professor at Gillings' Public Health Leadership Program, and an adjunct professor with the Departments of Maternal and Child Health and Health Policy and Management.

Areas of Expertise: Evaluation design; MCH / Public Health Competencies; Partnership Development; Title V; Workforce Development; Working with underserved communities; Applied implementation science; implementation strategies and process

Can offer states: Support for strengthening the use (impl.) of selected approaches through consideration and support for effective implementation strategies and tools.

Amy Hair



Dr. Amy Hair, MD is currently an Associate Professor in the Section of Neonatology and Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. She is also the Program Director of the Neonatal Nutrition Program and Co-director of the NICU Intestinal Rehabilitation Program at Texas Children's Hospital. Dr. Hair is the Director of the Maternal and Child Health Nutrition Training Program for neonatal dietitians.

Dr. Hair received her undergraduate degree in Biology at the University of Georgia and her MD from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. Her postgraduate training included a pediatrics residency at the University of Virginia, followed by postdoctoral fellowships in neonatal-perinatal medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine and in nutrition at the USDA/Agricultural Research Service Children's Nutrition Research Center in Houston.

Dr. Hair's research focuses on neonatal nutrition, specifically growth and the use of human milk in very low birth weight infants. Dr. Hair is the principal investigator for multiple ongoing research studies and is grant funded. Dr. Hair is recognized nationally as an expert in human milk and neonatal nutrition.

Areas of Expertise: Evaluation - Outcome; Nutrition - Early Childhood; Nutrition - Health Outcomes; Nutrition Strategies

Can offer states: I am an expert in neonatal nutrition and early life nutrition. I am also a clinical researcher. I can offer my expertise in the field and assist with any clinical research questions.

Barbara Laraia



Barbara Laraia, PhD, MPH, RD, is a Professor of Public Health Nutrition in the Division of Community Health Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley. She oversees a number of projects that investigate how human response to stress influences eating behaviors and metabolic outcomes. Her research program focuses on the influence of household food insecurity on dietary intake, cardiometabolic risk factors and pregnancy outcomes, especially among socially diverse and low-income populations. She has written extensively on this topic and found that food insecurity carries the double burden of severe stress and poor dietary intake. A second aspect of her research focuses on early life adverse events, stress and non-homeostatic eating behaviors, and how these lead to dietary intake and metabolic dysregulation. She implemented a stress reduction and healthy eating and movement interventions for middle- and low-income overweight/obese pregnant women. She has over 130 publications. In 2012, she served as a member of the Institute of Medicine Committee on the Examination of the Adequacy of Food Resources and SNAP Allotments.

Areas of Expertise: Data Analysis; Data Sources; Epidemiology; MCH / Public Health Competencies; Nutrition - Food Security

Can offer states: Guidance with data analysis

Aida Miles



Aida Miles, EdD, MMSc, RDN, CSP, LD, FAND, is associate professor of pediatrics at the University Of Alabama School Of Medicine, in the Division of Adolescent Medicine. She is also the director of the UAB Leadership Education in Pediatric Nutrition Program; a training grant funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau to train professionals and students in pediatric nutrition and maternal and child health.

Aida has been in academia since 2008, first at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health, and at the University of Tennessee's Nutrition Department. At the University of Minnesota Aida was the Director of the Coordinated MPH RD program, faculty in the Leadership Education in Maternal and Child Health Nutrition and in the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities training grants. In Tennessee Aida was Clinical Assistant Professor and supervised students in a federally qualified health care clinic in addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate level courses.

Aida's pediatric nutrition expertise has focused primarily on child and adolescent obesity and feeding problems in children with special needs. Aida worked as a pediatric dietitian for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and the Marcus Autism Center between 1992 and 2008. Prior to this, Aida worked at Hospital Roosevelt (in Guatemala). During these years she focused on various pediatric subspecialties and co-led interventions for children and youth with obesity. She

was trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI) in 2000 as part of a research project that utilized MI as an obesity prevention strategy with families of young children. She incorporated these skills into her practice and since that time Aida has conducted numerous MI trainings throughout the US.

Aida's other area of expertise is feeding challenges in children with special needs. In addition to her work in this area at the Marcus Autism Center, Aida has served as a consultant for Clinic 4 Kidz since 2009, and was a consultant for the Munroe-Meyer Feeding Disorders program for 5 years. These clinics specialize in working with infants and children with disabilities and feeding challenges.

Aida has held many leadership roles within the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, including being past-chair of the Pediatric Nutrition Practice Group and past-chair of the Latinos and Hispanics in Dietetics and Nutrition (LAHIDAN) Nominating Committee. She was a member of the Academy's Board of Directors, and Speaker of their House of Delegates between 2014 and 2017. Most recently, Aida has served as a leader in the Academy's Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2017-2021), the Academy's Policy and Advocacy Committee (2019-2022), and the Weight Management Practice Group's Awards and Honors Committee (2020-2022). Aida is the current Editor in Chief of the Academy's Pediatric Nutrition Care Manual, and is the incoming Chair-Elect for LAHIDAN (2022-2025).

Areas of Expertise: Nutrition - Early Childhood; Nutrition Strategies; Workforce Development; Working with underserved communities

Can offer states: My expertise is in workforce development in the area of child and adolescent nutrition and weight management. I have a particular interest and focus in working with underrepresented populations, including people of color and individuals with disabilities. I am also trained in Motivational Interviewing and Client Centered Counseling. I am fluent in Spanish and identify as being part of the Latinx community.

Jamie Stang



Dr. Stang, PhD, MPH, RDN conducts community-based research focusing on MCH populations, emphasizing behavioral risk factors that contribute to health disparities and poor maternal-fetal outcomes. She has been PI on grants related to MCH health disparities; a child obesity prevention-focused positive deviance project; a formative assessment to inform the development of an intervention program to reduce the risk of obesity and diabetes among 3 to 5 year-old Latino children; and a sub study of the National Children's Study to determine the best dietary assessment data collection methods for pregnant women, infants and children. Another grant was a RCT for gestational diabetes prevention among American Indian women. Dr. Stang has Co-PIed additional studies that examined the use of culturally appropriate exercise and dietary interventions to treat American Indian women with gestational diabetes and to prevent postpartum depression. She is PI of two MCH training grants funded by

HRSA. Dr Stang served as a member of the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Scientific Committee and the Pregnancy Technical Expert Committee. Previously, Dr. Stang co-directed the Midwest Center for Lifelong Learning in Public Health which was devoted to workforce development in Midwest states. She directs an annual national maternal and infant nutrition conference, held annually on the UMN. Dr Stang is also an UMN Extension-certified Master Gardener and Master Food Preservation Specialist.

Areas of Expertise: Epidemiology; Evaluation design; MCH / Public Health Competencies; Nutrition - Early Childhood; Title V; Writing outcomes for different stakeholder groups; Workforce Development; Working with underserved communities

Can offer states: The main skill set I can offer is decades of work in workforce development, including innovative and online training design and evaluation, and integration of nutrition into broad Title V/MCH health issues. I have also done work around PSE approaches to public health nutrition issues, largely focused on meeting the needs of under-resourced, immigrant and/or indigenous populations.

Evaluation Team

Ann Webb Price, Ph.D.

President, Community Evaluation Solutions, Inc,
communityevaluationsolutions.com



Dr. Ann Price is President of Community Evaluation Solutions, Inc. an evaluation consulting firm she founded in 2004. Much of Ann's work is with community coalitions and nonprofits with a focus on systems change. Ann and her team conduct evaluations in many areas including community collaboratives, youth substance abuse prevention, youth development, foster care advocacy, education, and public health Ann is an active member of the American Evaluation Association (AEA) and the Atlanta Affiliate of AEA. She conducts workshops and trainings throughout the country on coalition development coalition evaluation, evaluation use and evaluation capacity. She is a regular presenter at the AEA national conference and the AEA/CDC Summer Institute. Her work is published in several peer-reviewed journals on topics related to coalitions as a mechanism for social change, success stories and public health prevention and evaluation. Her book with co-author Dr. Susan Wolfe, *Community Consulting: A Practical Guide to Collaborating with Communities* is due out in 2023 and will be published by Cambridge Press. She has a podcast called *Community Possibilities* where she speaks to community leaders doing the hard work of systems change.

Susan M. Wolfe, PhD

CEO/Community Consultant, Susan Wolfe and Associates, LLC
susanwolfeandassociates.com



Dr. Susan Wolfe is CEO of Susan Wolfe and Associates, LLC a community consulting company since 2009. Susan works with a variety of local and national organizations to facilitate coalition development and provide evaluation services. Much of her work focuses on education and health equity. She is an active member of the American Evaluation Association and a founding member of the Texas Evaluation Network.

She conducts evaluation training and workshops locally, nationally, and internationally on evaluation and coalition development. She regularly presents at the American Evaluation Association conference and the AEA Summer Institute, in addition to presentations at other national and international conferences. She has published results of her work in numerous journal articles, book chapters, reports, and blogs. Dr. Wolfe has received several awards, including the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General's Award for Excellence in Evaluation and the Society for Community Research and Action's Award for Distinguished Contributions to Community Psychology Practice.

Nutrition Epidemiology Expertise

M. Pia Chaparro



Pia Chaparro, PhD, MS, is an Assistant Professor of Nutrition at the Department of Social, Behavioral, and Population Sciences at the Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine. Her overarching focus is on addressing social inequities in nutritional outcomes, with specific interests including food insecurity, food and nutrition policy, the social and environmental determinants of obesity, and the double burden of malnutrition in Latin America. For the past 12 years, Dr.

Chaparro has focused her research on recipients of food assistance programs, both domestically and abroad, with a particular emphasis on the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Dr. Chaparro, a public health nutritionist, obtained her PhD from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and her MS in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

MCHB Project Officer

Meredith Morrissette



Meredith Morrissette, MPH is a Public Health Analyst and Project Officer with the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) in the Division of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Workforce Development and has been with the Division since 2010. Ms. Morrissette leads the Division's nutrition portfolio, including the Children's Healthy Weight State Capacity Building Program, the MCH

Nutrition Training Program, as well as the recently completed Children's Healthy Weight CoIIN and Challenge Competition: Using Technology to Prevent Childhood Obesity in Low-Income Families and Communities. She is also the Project Officer for the MCH Navigator and co-

coordinates the Bureau's MCH Nutrition Team and MCH Nutrition Journal Club. As a trained nutrition epidemiologist, Ms. Morrissette works with state and federal partners on a broad spectrum of topics related to maternal and child health with a focus on nutrition, breastfeeding, and physical activity.

ASPHN Project Manager

Sandy Perkins



Sandy Perkins, **MS, RD/LD** is a Public Health Nutrition Consultant and the Maternal and Child Health Nutrition **Project Manager** for the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN). In this position she serves as the project manager for the Children's Healthy Weight State Capacity Building Program **and** provides consultant support to the organization's MCH Nutrition Council. Sandy also serves as the ASPHN Liaison to the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) and the MCH Nutrition Training Grantees.

Sandy has over 25 years **of** experience in the field of public health nutrition specializing the maternal and child populations. Sandy has coordinated nutrition services for the various programs serving maternal and child populations at the state and local agency levels, including WIC, Title V MCH program, Children with Special Health Care Needs, and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. She holds a master's degree in food science and human nutrition from Colorado State University and a BS from Kansas State University.

Sandy lives in rural Kansas with her husband, chocolate lab and kitties. Her hobbies including cooking, photography, and gardening.