

**Roundtable on Population Health Improvement**

**Workshop: The Role and Potential of Communities in Improving Population Health**

**April 10, 2014**

**AGENDA**

**Location:** California Community Foundation, Joan Palevsky Center for the Future of Los Angeles  
221 S. Figueroa St. Suite 400, Los Angeles

**WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:**

Explore the roles and potential of the community (e.g., resident groups, organizations, and diverse coalitions) as leaders, partners, and facilitators in transforming the social and environmental conditions that shape health and wellbeing at the local level.

Discuss important ingredients, effective strategies, and other lessons learned in three contexts:

1. Youth organizing
2. Community organizing or other types of community participation
3. Partnerships between community and institutional actors (e.g., universities and researchers, public health agencies and officials)

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**8:00 am      Welcome, introductions, and context**

*David Kindig, professor emeritus of population health sciences, emeritus vice chancellor for health sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Medicine and Public Health; co-chair, IOM Roundtable on Population Health Improvement*

*Mary Lou Goeke, executive director, United Way of Santa Cruz County; chair, workshop planning committee; member of the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement*

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**8:30 am      Keynote presentation: The power of communities in improving health**

*Manuel Pastor, professor, sociology/American studies & ethnicity; director, Program for Environmental and Regional Equity; director, Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, University of Southern California*

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**9:00 am      Discussion**

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**9:30 am      Panel I: How young people contribute to community health and wellbeing**

*Moderator: George Flores, program manager, The California Endowment; member, IOM Roundtable on Population Health Improvement ; member, workshop planning committee*

*Kymberly Lacrosse, community organizer, director Jovenes SANOS, United Way of Santa Cruz County,*

*and*

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	<p><i>Jose Joel Vasquez, youth leader, Jovenes SANOS</i></p> <p><i>Karen Marshall, executive director, Kids Rethink New Orleans</i></p>
10:30 am	<b>Break</b>
10:45 am	<b>Discussion</b>
11:15 am	<p><b>Panel II: How communities organize to tackle the social determinants of health</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Kate Hess Pace, lead organizer for the PICO Center for Health Organizing, PICO National Network; member, workshop planning committee</i></p> <p><i>Marqueece Harris-Dawson, executive director, Community Coalition, South Los Angeles</i></p> <p><i>Phyllis Hill, lead organizer, Isaiah, Minnesota</i></p>
12:00 pm	<b>Discussion</b>
12:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 pm	<p><b>Presentation and Discussion about the April 9 Site Visit</b></p> <p><i>Rapporteur: Julie Willems Van Dijk, associate scientist, deputy director, County Health Roadmaps project, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute; member, workshop planning committee</i></p>
2:00 pm	<p><b>Panel III: How institutions work with communities</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Melissa Simon, associate professor in obstetrics and gynecology, general/preventive medicine, medical social sciences, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; member, workshop planning committee</i></p> <p><i>Jomella Watson-Thompson, assistant professor, Department of Applied Behavioral Science; Associate Director for Community Participation and Research, KU Work Group for Community Health and Development, University of Kansas</i></p> <p><i>Renée Canady, chief executive officer, Michigan Public Health Institute</i></p>
2:45 pm	<b>Discussion</b>
3:15 pm	<b>Break</b>
3:30 pm	<p><b>Reactions to the day and significance for future action</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: George Isham, co-chair of the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement; senior advisor, HealthPartners, senior fellow, HealthPartners Institute for Education and Research</i></p>
4:30 pm	<b>Closing remarks from speakers and public comment</b>
5:00 pm	<b>Adjourn</b>

*For more information about the roundtable, visit [www.iom.edu/pophealthrt](http://www.iom.edu/pophealthrt) or email [pophealthrt@nas.edu](mailto:pophealthrt@nas.edu).*



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## **Roundtable on Population Health Improvement**

### **Workshop: The Role and Potential of Communities in Improving Population Health**

**April 10, 2014**

#### **Speaker and Moderator Biographies<sup>1</sup>**

**Reneé Canady, Ph.D., M.P.A.,** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Michigan Public Health Institute and was formerly the health officer (director) of the Ingham County Health Department, overseeing all public health operations and nine community health centers. Previously she was deputy health officer of the department, overseeing public health nursing, family and outreach services, disease control, health equity and social justice, planning and health assessment, neighborhood engagement, environmental health, and emergency preparedness. Dr. Canady has researched, published, and presented on pregnancy experience and disparities, health risks in pregnancy, infant mortality, HIV/AIDS, and racial health disparities. She has given television and radio interviews on these and other public health topics, including sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy. Earlier in her career she was a health education coordinator for the Michigan Department of Corrections, where she developed and implemented the first HIV/AIDS education and prevention program for Michigan prisons. She also worked for the Ingham County Health Department, where she was the first AIDS educator and the adolescent health coordinator. In the latter role, she developed and coordinated programs to reduce rates of adolescent pregnancy and she implemented adolescent health care services and prevention programs. Dr. Canady has lent her expertise to several community and state groups tasked with improving public health. These include the Michigan Department of Community Health's Infant Mortality Steering Committee and Public Health Code Advisory Committee; the Healthy! Capital Counties Steering Committee; the Ingham Change Initiative; the Ingham County Infant Mortality Coalition; and the Boards of Directors of the Great Lakes Health Information Exchange, the Capital Area United Way, and the Capital Area Health Alliance. In addition to teaching for the Program in Public Health, she is a former researcher and assistant professor at the Michigan State University College of Nursing.

**George Flores, M.D., M.P.H.,<sup>\*†</sup>** is a Program Manager for The California Endowment's Healthy California Prevention team. His work focuses on grant-making to improve health and equity through community-based prevention and a transformational health workforce. His work aims to strengthen the public health system, primary care, and community outreach, along with

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<sup>1</sup> Notes: Names appear in alphabetical order; “†” = member of the workshop planning committee; “\*” = member of the IOM Roundtable on Population Health Improvement.

cross-sector collaboration to address the social and environmental factors that shape health outcomes. Dr Flores previously managed grant-making to develop models of health-supportive policies and community environments, including Healthy Eating Active Communities and the Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program, two nationally-prominent multi-site, multi-sector programs to prevent childhood obesity that provided key lessons for the development of The Endowment's Building Healthy Communities strategy. Previously, Dr. Flores served as Public Health Officer in San Diego and Sonoma Counties; Clinical Assistant Professor for the UCSF Family Practice Residency Program; Director, Project HOPE in Guatemala; and Deputy Health Officer in Santa Barbara County. Dr. Flores received his MD from the University of Utah, and MPH from Harvard. He is an alumnus of the Kennedy School of Government's Executive Program and the National Public Health Leadership Institute. He was a member of two Institute of Medicine (IOM) committees that published the milestone reports: *Preventing Childhood Obesity: Health in the Balance*, and *The Future of the Public's Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. He is currently a member of the IOM Roundtable on Population Health Improvement. Dr. Flores is a founder of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California. Over his career, Dr. Flores has been a resource to government and non-government organizations. He has authored countless presentations and reports for diverse audiences on topics including obesity and chronic disease prevention, community health, immigrant health, health disparities, and environmental policy. Dr. Flores' work has been published in *The Journal of the American Public Health Association*, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, and *Preventing Chronic Disease*, among others. He co-authored a book chapter, "Latino Children's Health and the Environment," in *At Risk! Latino Children's Health*, recently published by *Arte Publico* Press. Dr. Flores was recognized by the National Hispanic Medical Association as 2011 Physician of the Year for his work that addresses social and environmental inequities and the role of communities in advancing policy and systems change to improve health. His vision is for every community to be a healthy, safe, and supportive place to raise children, go to school, work, and play.

**Mary Lou Goeke, M.S.W.,<sup>\*†</sup>** has held the position of Executive Director of United Way of Santa Cruz County from 1992 to the present. She is responsible for overall management and administration for the organization including strategic planning, new program development, financial oversight, liaison with funded community agencies, the business community, and government partners. She founded and staffs the Community Assessment Project, the internationally recognized, second oldest community progress report in the United States. From 1981 to 1992, she held positions of increasing responsibility with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, the San Francisco Bay Area's largest private human services and community development agency. Initially hired as Director of Aging Services in the San Francisco County branch agency, she then became Director of Parish and Community Services in that agency and then Executive Director of the San Francisco County agency. She then held the position of General Director and CEO of the three county agencies, which includes San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties. In addition, as General Director she held two other related positions: Archdiocesan Director, Catholic Relief Services and Archdiocesan Director, Campaign for Human Development. Prior to working for Catholic Charities, she served from 1979 to 1981 with the American Society for Aging as Policy and Legislation Coordinator. Before that, she worked from 1975 to 1979 for the State of Missouri Department of Aging,

starting as a Field Representative and being promoted to the position of Director of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

**Marqueece Harris-Dawson** has been a leader in the South Los Angeles community for more than 20 years leading important social justice campaigns aimed at improving the quality of life for all African American and Latino residents in the community. As President and CEO of Community Coalition, Harris-Dawson has been deeply involved and committed to the organization's mission, working arduously to improve the social and economic conditions in South Los Angeles that lead to crime, violence, substance abuse and poverty. Harris-Dawson came to the helm of Community Coalition in 2004 following years as a community organizer, leader and director – leading some of the organization's first major education justice victories. Founded in 1990 by now-Congresswoman Karen Bass and a group of activists, the Community Coalition is best known for leading nationally recognized grassroots campaigns that include groundbreaking nuisance abatement work to close over 150 liquor stores and educational justice campaigns to transform the quality of public education. In the 1990s, Harris-Dawson served as the director of the Community Coalition youth project, South Central Youth Empowered Through Action (SCYEA), leading the Proposition Better Buildings campaign to expose the poor conditions at South Los Angeles high schools. Arming youth with disposable cameras to document the poor conditions of their schools, and training them to advocate for badly needed repairs at their campuses, Harris-Dawson helped students win \$153 million in school repairs in 1999. Recently, Harris-Dawson led the concerted efforts of the African American Redistricting Collaborative (AARC) to ensure that African Americans had a voice in the California redistricting process. In addition to his work at the Community Coalition, Harris-Dawson has extensive experience in electoral politics, and is a key participant in the progressive movement in Los Angeles. During his time completing a Bachelor's degree at Morehouse College, Harris-Dawson became active with several important social justice issues of the time, including organizing in the international movement to end South African Apartheid, fighting against police brutality, and working to bring more youth and family services to those who needed them the most. Along with a host of board and committee posts, Harris-Dawson has been recognized with several community commendations, recognitions and awards including the coveted Do Something "BRICK" Award and Liberty Hill Foundation's Upton Sinclair Award. Harris-Dawson was recently honored with The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF) Sabbatical Program Award. He holds a certificate in non-profit management from Stanford's Graduate School of Business and is currently an Aspen Institute Fellow for New Leaders.

**Kate Hess Pace**<sup>†</sup> is a lead organizer for the PICO Center for Health Organizing. She led the Healthy Corridor for All Coalition's Health Impact Assessment, a joint effort of ISAIAH, TakeAction Minnesota, and PolicyLink on the Central Corridor Light Rail Line. As an organizer, she led ISAIAH's work on financial justice and spearheaded the campaign to win landmark foreclosure legislation in Minnesota. Kate is completing a master's degree in Public Administration at Cornell University with an emphasis on health equity and urban policy. She received her B.A. at Indiana University, an individualized major on Public Space and Urban Studies. Prior to moving to Minnesota, she led a number of community projects, including founding a program for at-risk youth and leading a community-run newspaper.

**Phyllis Hill** is the lead organizer for ISAIAH and works in Minneapolis, organizing over 20 congregations. As staff lead on ISAIAH's education and mass incarceration work, she is currently building a school discipline/suspensions campaign that emphasizes the cradle-to-prison pipeline. Phyllis has led a ground breaking, grassroots movement to increase funding in education, which includes preventing the cutting of integration money. Also, she has accomplished extraordinary work in inter-racial dialogs within the faith community. Phyllis studied History at Georgia Southern University and received a M.A. in African-American Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to ISAIAH, Phyllis worked at Beloit College (Beloit, WI) as the Ronald E. McNair Coordinator, a federally funded program, which assisted students whom were low-income, first generation, and persons of color to pursue graduate school education.

**Kymberly Lacrosse** has been a Community Organizer at the United Way of Santa Cruz County for over seven years and is currently the Project Director of Jovenes SANOS, a youth leadership and advocacy group. Kymberly has a B.A. from UCSC and M.A. from SJSU, both in Sociology. In addition, Kymberly is engaged in ongoing Transformative Leadership for Sustainable Change which strives to design community change that makes a real, lasting and sustainable difference. She has over twenty five years of partnering with youth in many capacities giving her front line experience that intertwines synergistically with her academic and intellectual knowledge. Kymberly brings a heartfelt passion to youth voice and community engagement that is rooted in an undeniable commitment to see individuals and communities be inspired, educated and successful. Her commitment to equity, justice, access and health drive her to work diligently to change the systems in place for a more equitable, thriving and healthy world.

**Karen Marshall** is the Executive Director of Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools (Rethink), a youth organizing and youth leadership development organization that uses participatory education and action research to build the leadership skills of youth in New Orleans. Ms. Marshall made the move to New Orleans from Boston, MA where she gained experience in clinical therapy, community organizing, youth work, higher education, parent organizing, and education justice initiatives. additionally, she has taught undergrad and graduate programs in Trinidad and South Africa.

**Manuel Pastor, Ph.D.,** is Professor of Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California (USC) where he also serves as Director of USC's Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) and co-Director of USC's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII). Founding director of the Center for Justice, Tolerance, and Community at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Pastor holds an economics Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and has received fellowships from the Danforth, Guggenheim, and Kellogg foundations and grants from the Irvine Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the California Wellness Foundation, and many others. In recent years, his research has focused on the economic, environmental and social conditions facing low-income urban communities in the U.S., resulting in articles published in *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Review of Regional Studies*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Journal of Economic Issues*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *Urban Geography*, and elsewhere. He has also conducted research on Latin American economic conditions, with



articles published in journals such as *International Organization*, *World Development*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, *Latin American Research Review*, and *Foreign Affairs*. His most recent book is *Just Growth: Inclusion and Prosperity in America's Metropolitan Regions* (Routledge Press) which was co-authored with Chris Benner. Previous volumes include *Uncommon Common Ground: Race and America's Future* (W.W. Norton 2010; co-authored with Angela Glover Blackwell and Stewart Kwoh), *This Could Be the Start of Something Big: How Social Movements for Regional Equity are Transforming Metropolitan America* (Cornell University Press 2009; co-authored with Chris Benner and Martha Matsuoka), *Staircases or Treadmills: Labor Market Intermediaries and Economic Opportunity in a Changing Economy* (Russell Sage 2007, co-authored with Chris Benner and Laura Leete), *Searching for the Uncommon Common Ground: New Dimensions on Race in America* (W.W. Norton 2002; co-authored with Angela Glover Blackwell and Stewart Kwoh) and *Regions That Work: How Cities and Suburbs Can Grow Together* (University of Minnesota Press 2000; co-authored with Peter Dreier, Eugene Grigsby, and Marta Lopez-Garza), a book that has become a standard reference for those looking to link neighborhoods and regions. Dr. Pastor speaks frequently on issues of demographic change, economic inequality, and community empowerment and has contributed opinion pieces to such outlets as the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, the *Los Angeles Business Journal*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*. In January 2002 he was awarded a Civic Entrepreneur of the Year award from the California Center for Regional Leadership and in 2012 he received the Wally Marks Changemaker of the Year award from the Liberty Hill Foundation. He is a member of the Building Resilient Regions research network sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation.

**Melissa A. Simon, M.D. M.P.H.<sup>†</sup>**, is the Vice Chair of Clinical Research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Preventive Medicine and Medical Social Sciences at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Dr. Simon's primary research interests are aimed at eliminating health disparities among low income, medically underserved women across the lifespan. Integrating health services research with social epidemiologic models, Dr. Simon's research focuses on interventions (such as patient navigation and community health outreach workers) that aim to reduce and eliminate such disparities. Within this context, Dr. Simon prefers to leverage culture and community to achieve these goals and thereby integrates community based participatory research framework into her work.

**Jose Joel Vasquez** is a 20-years-old resident of Watsonville, California, a small agricultural town in Santa Cruz County. Jose has been a member of Jovenes SANOS for over four years. Jovenes SANOS has become a second family to Jose and is the place where Jose has found his voice and has become a leader to his peers, family and community. Jose is attending his local community college and plans to transfer to California State University Monterey Bay to study Sociology with an emphasis on Criminal Justice and also minor in music. Jose loves to play soccer, play the guitar and accordion, listen to music, write poetry and just hang out with his friends.

**Jomella Watson-Thompson, Ph.D., M.A., M.U.P.**, is Assistant Professor, Applied Behavioral Science and Associate Director, Work Group for Community Health and Development, at University of Kansas College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dr. Watson-Thompson's research

experience has focused on the application of behavioral science methods and interventions to improve how communities address issues related to community health and development. She is particularly interested in a behavioral community psychology approach to social problem-solving. Her research team, the KU Work Group Team for Community Youth Development and Prevention, conducts research in affiliation with the Work Group for Community Health and Development, and the Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies. Her particular interests focus on neighborhood development, positive youth development, and prevention, including substance abuse and violence prevention. Dr. Watson-Thompson supports community-based participatory research and evaluation activities with community organizations to examine the effects of community-based prevention efforts in addressing youth violence and adolescent substance use. Her team is also initiating a line of research examining if youth engagement in preferred leisure-time physical activities may serve as a reinforcer and protective factor for pro-social behaviors. Dr. Watson-Thompson also conducts research to support community capacity-building efforts to address social determinants of health through community-based participatory research in urban neighborhoods and disparate communities. A guiding theme for her research has been the empirical/experimental analysis of the effects of community-based processes and intervention to promote community mobilization and change in addressing the interrelated conditions that affect community health. She also has researched the effects of community-based processes and interventions (e.g., strategic planning) to examine organizational behavior and functioning of community-based organizations and coalitions. Specifically, she is interested in examining factors that enable communities, particularly those in urban environments, to effectively bring about change and improvement in community-identified outcomes of concern (e.g., homicides, graduation rates, community participation).

**Julie Willems Van Dijk, Ph.D., RN<sup>†</sup>**, is an Associate Scientist and the Deputy Director for the Robert Wood Johnson funded *County Health Roadmaps* project at the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (UWPHI). Julie also serves as the Director of the *RWJF Roadmaps to Health Prize*. She has worked with numerous partners across the nation to use the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps* tools to take action to improve the health of communities. Her research interests focus in the area of quality of community health improvement planning processes. Prior to joining the Population Health Institute, Julie worked in local public health for 21 years as a public health nurse, director of nursing, and a health officer. Julie has served on numerous community boards, including the Aspirus Wausau Hospital Board of Directors, the Wausau School District Board of Education, the Wausau Child Care Board of Directors, the Marathon County United Way's Local Initiatives for Excellence (LIFE) committee, and the Wausau/Marathon County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Wausau program. Julie received a doctorate degree in Nursing with an emphasis in Public Health Leadership from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She also holds a M.S.N. from UW-Oshkosh and a B.S.N. from UW-Eau Claire. Julie is a graduate of the Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Executive Fellows program and the National Public Health Leadership Institute.