

**The Roles of Trust and Health Literacy in Achieving Health Equity
A Workshop Series**

Meeting #2: Public Health Institutions

**SPEAKER BIOSKETCH | September 28, 2022
1:00 – 2:30 pm Eastern Time**

Wilma Alvarado-Little, MA, MSW

Ms. Alvarado-Little is the Associate Commissioner and Director of the New York State Department of Health Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention. She has focused on racial and health equity issues from a linguistic and cultural perspective in addition to her interests in public policy, research, health literacy and health disparities prevention. She has been instrumental in the development and implementation of hospital and clinic-based programs and policy. She is the former Co-chair of the Board of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care, serves as a member of the National Project Advisory Committee for the Review of the CLAS Standards, HHS Office of Minority Health, and has served as a member of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Roundtable on Health Literacy and has served as Chair of the New York State Office of Mental Health Multicultural Advisory Committee. She also serves on various boards, at the state and local levels, which address racial and health inequities and disparities and is a champion for the provision of quality language access services. She has a Master Arts degree in Spanish Literature and a Master's in Social Welfare.

Gerri Chee

Ms. Chee is a Senior Health Educator for the Navajo Health Education Program/Division of Public Health Services and Navajo Department of Health. She is Navajo/Dine, originally from Steamboat, AZ on the Navajo Nation. She is of the Mexican People Clan, born for the Redhouse People Clan. Ms. Chee attended Northern Arizona University where she began her Health Promotion studies with an emphasis in Community Health Education. She has been in the public health field for the last 15 years and has dedicate her services to the Navajo people.

Philene Stewart-Herrera, C.H.E.S.

Ms Stewart-Herrera is the Health Program Manager in the field of Health Education & HIV Prevention at the Navajo Nation Department of Health for the past 31 years. She has worked in Window Rock, AZ. as the Health Program Manager of eight Health Education and five HIV field offices. Her duties include program planning and evaluation in the four areas as community, school, worksite, and patient health education services; policy development and addressing legislated changes, contracts and procurement, representing the Navajo Nation at national and state meetings. For a brief tenure in 2015-2017, she has had additional responsibilities as Acting Director of the Navajo Special Diabetes Project where she oversaw eight Special Diabetes field offices across the Navajo Nation and five wellness centers where she actively

worked in creating short & long-term program and service goals, evaluating program performance; monitored program activities; ensuring internal & fiscal controls and procedures guide program accountability.

Lenora E. Johnson, DrPH, MPH

Dr. Johnson is Director of the Office of Science Policy, Engagement, Education, and Communications, at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). For more than 20 years she has focused her expertise and training in behavioral science, specifically on translating the science and research for use and preferably adoption by those standing to benefit the most – which has included patients, caregivers, health care professionals, policy makers, advocacy organizations, the media, and organizations serving as intermediaries between research and their constituents. Dr. Johnson earned her master's degree in public health from Emory University and her doctorate degree in behavioral science from George Washington University. Dr. Johnson joined NHLBI in December of 2013 having spent most of her prior federal public service at NIH with the National Cancer Institute and her non-federal career working at the national and local levels translating health information into materials, messages, and interventions that reach populations most vulnerable to diseases that are most prevalent in the country.

Martha Whyte, MD

Dr. Whyte is the Regional Administrator and Regional Medical Director of Louisiana Office of PH and the Medical Director for Region 7 of Louisiana. She graduated from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport in 1994 with a specialty in pediatrics. In this position, Dr. Whyte is the public health medical official for the region which encompasses Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, De Soto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine and Webster parishes. She is responsible for addressing any disease and health-related concerns that arise in this area and coordinating the response with the state health officer, state epidemiologist and other OPH officials.