

Supporting the Capacity of Indigenous American and Tribal Communities to Prepare for, Respond to, and Recover from Disasters and Public Health Emergencies: A Workshop

Committee

Henry Cagey

Co-Chair

Henry M. Cagey, of the Lummi Indian Nation, has been a member of his Tribal Council since 1988. He served as Chairman of the Tribe for 13 years and has successfully served the Tribe in numerous additional capacities. From Senior Operations Manager to Economic Development Director, he has been a vibrant and consistent leader, always dedicated to the health, safety, cultural strength and economic prosperity of the more than 5,000 members of the Lummi Nation. His leadership has extended the breadth of local, regional, state and national service. He has been the President of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the Interim Director of United Indians of All Tribes, Northwest American Indian Development Project Director and tribal representative on a plethora of national programs and issues. He serves on many significant boards of directors and is a veteran of the United States Navy. His awards include the Whatcom County Human Rights Award and the John Kieffer Memorial Award for Exemplary Service. He is a graduate of Northwest Indian College. He is married, with two daughters and two grandchildren, and lives on the Lummi Reservation.

W. Craig Vanderwagen

Co-Chair

W. Craig Vanderwagen, M.D., RADM, USPHS, serves as Co-Founder and Director of East West Protection, LLC. Dr. Vanderwagen served 28 years as a uniformed officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, retiring with the rank of Rear Admiral (upper half). He served 25 years in the Indian Health Service. His last assignment was as the Presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He also serves as a senior partner with Martin, Blanck and Associates, a professional consulting firm located in Alexandria, Virginia. As the founding ASPR, he implemented new federal legislation that established the ASPR as the principal leader for all federal public health and medical response activities to any deliberate or natural disasters in the U.S. The legislation established a federal role in the development and utilization of human and other material assets in preparedness and response, and systems for deploying and managing these assets in emergency situations. His position also gave him authority and oversight of the federal effort to develop and support a wide range of medical countermeasures (diagnostics, vaccines, therapeutic drugs and biologics) against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) and pandemic influenza threats. This oversight responsibility included scientific discovery, product development, licensure, acquisition, and deployment. Dr. Vanderwagen was responsible for the creation of operational plans to address the 15 national threats (including biological threats such as anthrax, smallpox, and plague, as well as threats from nuclear, radiation, and chemical devices, and natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes) supported by appropriate situational awareness, logistics, planning, training and exercises coordinated through the Secretary's Command Center, an emergency operations center (EOC) linked to all other federal, state, and local command centers. Dr. Vanderwagen received his Doctor of Medicine degree from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. He completed his residency in family medicine at the University of New Mexico and is Board Certified in Family Practice Medicine. He received his Bachelor's degree from Calvin College.

Manley A. Begay, Jr.

Member

Manley A. Begay, Jr., ED.D., M.ED., is a tenured Professor in the Department of Applied Indigenous Studies (AIS) and Department of Politics and International Affairs at the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff (NAU). Professor Begay is also an affiliate faculty member of the W. A. Franke College of Business at NAU. He is also, director of the Tribal Leadership Initiative in the Office of Native American Initiative at NAU. At NAU, he has primary responsibility for teaching about Indigenous Nation-Building, Navajo History and Philosophy, and directing the Tribal Leadership Initiative. His major specialization lies at the heart of issues pertaining to Indigenous Nation-Building: Sovereignty, Governance, Culture, Leadership, Education, and Economic Development. Begay's recent work includes executive education sessions and research, with and relevant to First Nations and organizations in Canada and Native nations and organizations in the United States. He also continues to expand his work and research which includes the Navajo Nation, Aborigines in Australia, and Maoris in Aotearoa (New Zealand). Further, he has professional interests in putting theory into practice regarding issues of Indigenous education, Navajo history and philosophy, and development.

Timothy Collins

Member

Timothy Collins, M.P.H., M.S., MA, is an epidemiologist with more than 20 years of international experience in crisis management, risk communication, and policy analysis. As an adviser to governments in Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa, Mr. Collins led national-level survey research and developed public outreach strategies in response to highly sensitive national security issues. From the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Alaska, Mr. Collins supported the Situation Unit of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium with surveillance and analytics. Currently, he works with physicians in Alaska to improve how behavioral health information is communicated to patients. Mr. Collins holds an MPH in biostatistics and epidemiology from the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, an MS in psychology, and an MA in diplomacy. He is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Kymberly D. Cravatt

Member

Kymberly Cravatt, JD., M.P.H., became the Nation's first General Counsel for the Department of Health, in October 2023. Prior to assuming that role, Ms. Cravatt served the Chickasaw Nation as the first Assistant Director of Prosecution following the United States Supreme Court's historic ruling in *McGirt v. Oklahoma* (2020). Ms. Cravatt has more than 20 years of experience in tribal public health programs as well as tribal law practice. As an attorney and as a public health practitioner, Ms. Cravatt has developed an extensive background in tribal law, Federal Indian law, healthcare law, and tribal self-governance. Prior to her legal experience, Ms. Cravatt worked in tribal public health programs including serving as Director of Cancer Programs for the Cherokee Nation. She is a Director at Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, a member of the American Health Lawyers Association, Federal Bar Association, and Oklahoma Public Health Association. She is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Oklahoma, the Chickasaw Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Seminole Nation and the Eastern District of Oklahoma. Ms. Cravatt received her Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University (earning a certificate in American Indian Law) and Masters of Public Health from the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health.

Theresa A. Cullen

Member

Theresa Cullen, M.D., M.S., is currently the Public Health Director of Pima County, Arizona. While guiding the county of over one million residents through COVID-19, she developed a strategic approach to emergency preparedness and response, resiliency, and transformational health status change with a goal of health equity. She continues to work closely with Tribal, federal, state and local partners to ensure that community needs are integrated with a goal of health justice. Dr. Cullen, RADM (retired) USPHS, began her family medicine clinical career with Indian Health Service (IHS) and worked in leadership positions for 25 years with American Indian/Alaska Native communities with a goal of improving health status through innovation and data informatics. Dr. Cullen worked as the Chief Medical Information Officer for the Veterans Health Administration from 2012-2015 and Associate Director of Global Health Informatics at the Regenstrief Institute. She has been honored with multiple local, state and national awards including the Distinguished Service Medal, the University of Arizona Medical College Alumni Award, and the AMIA Don Detmer Award for informatics health policy contributions.

Jillian Mieke Nohealani Freitas

Member

Jillian Mieke Nohealani Freitas, PSYD, is a Kanaka 'Oiwi (Native Hawaiian) licensed clinical psychologist and program director of Ka Malu a Wa'ahila, behavioral health services for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students at University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Dr. Freitas is an assistant professor in the Department of Native Hawaiian health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and splits her time between academic work and clinical practice in primary care psychology at Empower Health, an ambulatory clinic of The Queen's Health Systems. She is a member of the ACT 209 Hawai'i Statewide Trauma-Informed Care Task Force, and is actively participating in the behavioral health response to the Maui community in the wake of the August 2023 wildfire disaster. Her primary clinical and research interests include culturally grounded trauma-informed care, historical trauma and resilience, and uplifting indigenous ways of knowing and being alongside western psychological practices. She received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Pacific University School of Graduate Psychology, and completed her predoctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship serving a predominantly Native Hawaiian community at Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center.

Ripan S. Malhi

Member

Ripan S. Malhi, Ph.D., is a Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with affiliations in Anthropology, School of Integrative Biology, American Indian Studies and the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology. Dr. Malhi is Co-Director of the Center for Indigenous Science and his research areas include using genomics as a tool to learn about evolutionary histories in the Americas as well as the impacts of European colonization on Indigenous peoples of North America. Along with his research, Dr. Malhi uses his time to help make scientific research more inclusive. He co-founded the Summer internship for INdigenous peoples in Genomics (SING) USA program and the Increasing Diversity in Evolutionary Anthropological Studies (IDEAS) program. Dr. Malhi received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California at Davis in 2001 and was the 2022 AAAS Robert W. Sussman Award for Scientific Contributions to Anthropology.

Timothy Southern

Member

Dr. Timothy Southern, Ph.D., has served as the Director of the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory since 2015. During his time in South Dakota, Dr. Southern emphasized public health laboratory program development for a predominantly rural and frontier state whose residents include nine Sioux Nations. Dr. Southern is a member of the American Society for Microbiology and is a certified Diplomat by the American Board of Medical Microbiology. Dr. Southern is a member of the Association of Public Health Laboratories and currently serves as President of the association. Prior to joining SDPHL, Dr. Southern completed an ASM clinical microbiology fellowship at the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory and completed two research fellowships at the National Institutes of Health, Rocky Mountain Laboratories, and the University of Georgia, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Dr. Southern received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from East Tennessee State University, James H. Quillen College of Medicine, his Master of Science degree in biology from the ETSU, and his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from the University of North Carolina, Asheville.