



**WELCOMES YOU TO OUR  
2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**Monday 3/30 - Wednesday 4/1**  
**Lodge of the Four Seasons**  
**Lake of the Ozarks**



**DATE:**

MARCH 30, 2026





**TIME:**

GENERAL

TIME		
<p><b>7:00am - 8:30am</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Breakfast</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast buffet with fresh pastries, fruits &amp; berries, yogurt, bacon, scrambled eggs, breakfast potatoes, sausage, french toast w/ syrup</li> <li>• Milk, Juice, Coffee, and Teas</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Marbella AB</b></p>
<p><b>7:00am - 11:00am</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Registration</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Granada Foyer</b></p>
<p><b>**</b></p> <p><b>9:00am - 11:15am</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>Keynote Speakers: Sonali Alluri &amp; Toniann Richard</p>	<p align="center"><b>Granada AB</b></p>
<p><b>8:00am - 4:00pm</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Vendor Exhibits</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Granada Foyer</b></p>



 **DATE:**  
MARCH 30, 2026

 **TIME:**  
11:00AM - 12:30PM

Marbella  
AB

TIME	
11:00am - 12:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lunch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tortilla chips, mixed greens w/ assorted dressings, cheese enchiladas, spanish rice, &amp; refried beans</li><li>• Make your own fajitas:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Grilled Ancho Chicken and Beef</li><li>◦ Green &amp; Red Peppers, onions, jalapenos, black olives, shredded cheese, salsa, &amp; sour cream</li></ul></li><li>• Churro Cheesecake</li><li>• Coffee &amp; Teas</li></ul>
11:45am - 12:00pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Missouri Department of Health &amp; Senior Services Presentation</p>





MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &  
SENIOR SERVICES**



**DATE:**

MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2026




**TIME:**

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Session	Topic	Presenter	Room
<b>Building Bridges: The Power of Social Connectedness</b>	This breakout session focuses on how social connectedness shapes individual and community health. Participants will learn practical CHW strategies to build trust, strengthen relationships, and overcome barriers to engagement.	<b>Shavanna Spratt- Bailey</b>	<b>Valencia</b>
<b>Artificial Intelligence as a Tool to Elevate Community Health Worker Impact</b>	Participants will explore how AI can enhance CHW effectiveness and reach, understand key ethical and equity considerations, and identify practical strategies for integrating AI tools into everyday CHW workflows.	<b>Martha Harris</b>	<b>Lookout</b>
<b>Mobilizing Men's Role in Community Health Advocacy</b>	Participants will explore why increasing male representation in the CHW workforce matters and identify one actionable step to support recruitment and improve access, trust, and health outcomes.	<b>Ryan Smith</b>	<b>Granada AB</b>
<b>Regional Networking Breakout</b>	Participants will identify their CHWAM region and Board representative and build new connections to support and strengthen their Community Health Worker practice.	<b>Nancy Kiem</b>	<b>Granada C</b>
<b>Elevating CHW Impact and Reducing ED Utilization Through Streamlined Care Coordination</b>	This session examines how closed-loop referral workflows support CHWs in coordinating care, strengthening collaboration, and reducing avoidable emergency department use. Participants will gain practical insights to improve referral processes and enhance outcomes for the communities they serve.	<b>Erin Jaibur</b>	<b>Seville</b>
<b>Renewing Energy and Resilience in Health Care Presentation</b>	The presentation outlines healthcare burnout and promotes a Three R approach—Recognition, Reversal, and Resilience—to support providers, patients, and caregivers through individual and system-level solutions.	<b>Rose Chianta</b>	<b>HKs Club Room</b>



 **DATE:**  
MARCH 30, 2026

 **TIME:**  
2:00PM - 2:15PM

Grenada  
Foyer

TIME	
2:00pm - 2:15pm	<b>Break</b> <b>Charcuterie Board Assortment</b>

**Networking Notes:**

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &**  
**SENIOR SERVICES**



 **DATE:**  
MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

 **TIME:**  
2:15 PM - 3:15 PM



<b>CHWAM OLYMPICS!</b>	<b>Granada AB</b>

**Who will take the WIN home  
to their region this year?!**





MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &  
SENIOR SERVICES**



**DATE:**


MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2026


**TIME:**

3:30PM - 4:30 PM

Session	Topic	Presenter	Room
<b>Words with Impact: Postpartum Communication That Connects</b>	Identify how tone, language, and delivery impact empowerment and self-advocacy, Demonstrate practical communication strategies, Apply motivational interviewing–informed communication techniques	<b>Jasmine Kimbrough</b>	<b>Valencia</b>
<b>Changing Our Path: Behavioral Health Crisis Centers and the Crisis Continuum</b>	Participants will understand recent changes to the Missouri Crisis Continuum, how Crisis Centers fit within the system, and what services individuals can expect when accessing a Crisis Center.	<b>Lauren Bruce</b>	<b>Granada A&amp;B</b>
<b>Abstract: Empowering the Frontline— Leveraging Agentic AI to Enhance Community Health</b>	This session explores how agentic AI can reduce administrative burden, strengthen reimbursement efforts, and enhance care coordination for CHWs. Participants will gain practical insights into using AI tools to streamline workflows, support clinical decision-making, and improve outcomes for the communities they serve.	<b>Spencer Schaefer, PharmD</b>	<b>Granda C</b>
<b>Strengthening CHW Capacity in Sexual Health Education and Care</b>	This CHW-led Sexual Health Certification Program built capacity for delivering accurate, culturally responsive, trauma-informed sexual health education and support. Through virtual learning and an in-person practicum, participants strengthened skills in stigma-free communication, client engagement, and linkage to inclusive sexual health care.	<b>Germysa Weatherall</b>	<b>Seville</b>
<b>Trauma Informed Support for Clients with Chronic Health Conditions</b>	Participants will learn to recognize key signs and types of trauma and understand how trauma impacts engagement, trust, and treatment decisions. The session will also introduce evidence-based approaches that help reduce trauma-related barriers to care and support recovery.	<b>Karen Ross</b>	<b>HK Clubroom</b>
<b>Missouri System of Care</b>	Participants will learn the core System of Care principles, locate available SOC resources, and connect with an existing SOC team to support their work.	<b>JJ Gossrau</b>	<b>Lookout</b>



 **DATE:**  
MARCH 31, 2026

 **TIME:**  
7:00AM - 8:30AM

Marbella  
AB


TIME	
7:00am - 8:30am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Breakfast</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assorted fresh pastries</li><li>• Hand made breakfast burritos</li><li>• Southwest potatoes</li><li>• Sour cream &amp; salsa</li><li>• Oatmeal with brown sugar &amp; raisins</li><li>• Sausage</li><li>• Juice, Coffee, &amp; Teas</li></ul>




MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &  
SENIOR SERVICES**





 **DATE:**  
MARCH 31, 2026

 **TIME:**  
11:00AM - 12:30PM

Marbella  
AB

TIME	
<p>11:00am - 12:30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lunch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roasted Red Pepper Soup</li> <li>• Mixed Field Greens w/ Assorted Dressings</li> <li>• Assorted Wraps               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Southwest Chicken w/ Spanish rice, chicken, black beans, corn, tomatoes, cilantro, &amp; sour cream</li> <li>◦ Anchiote Beef Wrap w/ flank steak, sweet peppers &amp; onions, baby spinach, and salsa verde</li> <li>◦ Grilled Veggie Wrap w/ squash, zucchini, bell peppers, onion, broccoli, and basis w/ red pepper coulis</li> </ul> </li> <li>• House-Made kettle chips</li> <li>• Mini Dessert Bar or Mini Cheesecake</li> <li>• Coffee &amp; Teas</li> </ul>
<p>11:45am - 12:00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Missouri Department of Health &amp; Senior Services Presentation</p>



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &  
SENIOR SERVICES**



**DATE:**

MARCH 31, 2026



**TIME:**

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Session	Topic	Presenter	Room
<b>Empowering Patients: Skills to Improve Chronic Disease Care</b>	Participants will gain an understanding of chronic disease, explore the benefits of offering the program locally, and learn key considerations for successful implementation.	<b>Inez Major &amp; Patricia Burton</b>	<b>Valencia</b>
<b>Doing the Thing Scared: Amplifying CHW Voices and Experience</b>	Participants will affirm their lived experience as professional expertise and learn how storytelling can amplify CHW voices. Attendees will explore pathways to publication and contribute to a shared resource that builds connection, visibility, and collective strength within the CHW workforce.	<b>Thalia D. Baker-Ruiz</b>	<b>Granada A&amp;B</b>
<b>Elevating CHWs: Leadership, Collaboration, and Long-Term Role Growth</b>	This session focuses on strengthening CHW confidence and leadership while enhancing collaboration within interdisciplinary teams. Participants will explore strategies to communicate CHW value and support career growth and sustainable integration across behavioral health and community-based systems.	<b>Brandy Stufflebean</b>	<b>Lookout</b>
<b>Artificial Intelligence as a Tool to Elevate Community Health Worker Impact</b>	Attendees will clarify their personal “why,” participate in a purpose-marking ritual, and memorialize their commitment through a professional portrait. Participants will leave equipped to shift from transactional culture to transformational leadership and unite communities around meaningful change.	<b>Chris Pineda</b>	<b>Granada C</b>
<b>Building Dementia Capacity in the CHW Workforce</b>	This session highlights how Community Health Workers partner with the Missouri BOLD Program to promote dementia awareness and apply training to support individuals, caregivers, and community referrals.	<b>Beth Richards</b>	<b>Seville</b>
<b>Health Care Changes Ahead: Practical Navigation Strategies for CHWs</b>	Attendees will gain an overview of major federal legislative, regulatory, and court developments from late 2025, including budget actions, reconciliation efforts, and key rulings. They will learn when new policies take effect and how they may impact healthcare access, workplace protections, and patient advocacy in 2026. Attendees will also understand how community health workers can engage in advocacy and empower community members to do the same.	<b>Monica Bryant</b>	<b>HK Clubroom</b>



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &  
SENIOR SERVICES**



**DATE:**

MARCH 31, 2026



**TIME:**

2:15PM - 3:15PM

Session	Topic	Presenter	Room
<b>Healing in Partnership: How Community Health Workers in HVIP Empowering Recovery in Trauma</b>	Participants will learn the role of Community Health Workers in Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs and apply trauma-informed, culturally responsive engagement strategies with patients and families. The session will also highlight how CHWs collaborate with multidisciplinary hospital and community partners to address social determinants of health and support recovery planning.	<b>Ryan Smith</b>	<b>Valencia</b>
<b>The Role of a Community Health Worker in Advancing Maternal Health Outcomes</b>	Participants will explore the role of Community Health Workers across the maternal health continuum and how they address social determinants of health. The session highlights collaboration between CHWs, doulas, and healthcare teams to strengthen maternal health programs and continuity of care.	<b>LaKisha Redditt</b>	<b>Granada C</b>
<b>From Grassroots to Greatness: Elevating CHW Impact Through Innovation &amp; Collaboration Across Missouri</b>	Participants will identify new outreach strategies, develop a 90-day professional growth action step, and name at least one new regional collaboration to strengthen their CHW work.	<b>Tabasha A. Davis</b>	<b>Lookout</b>
<b>Primary Care Monitoring &amp; Community Health Workers: Bridging Behavioral and Physical Health</b>	This session highlights how FCC-Behavioral Health integrates Community Health Workers into behavioral health services to bridge primary care and whole-person care. Attendees will learn how CHWs support screening, coordination, and follow-up to improve physical and behavioral health outcomes.	<b>Drew Joyce</b>	<b>HK Clubroom</b>
<b>Understanding Public Benefits: A Beginner's Guide to Medicaid, and SNAP</b>	Participants will learn the types of Medicaid available, basic eligibility criteria, and how to assist clients with the online application process.	<b>Shelly Harden</b>	<b>Seville</b>
<b>The Power of Storytelling</b>	Participants will learn to craft and confidently deliver a brief, structured story and explore how storytelling can strengthen leadership, trust, and team culture. The session includes practice and feedback to improve message clarity, vocal delivery, and audience engagement.	<b>Demario Richardson</b>	<b>Granada A&amp;B</b>



**DATE:**

MARCH 31, 2026





**TIME:**

3:15PM - 4:00PM

<b>Northeast &amp; Northwest Region</b>	<b>Valencia</b>
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>Seville</b>
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>Lookout</b>
<b>St. Louis Region</b>	<b>HK's Club Room</b>
<b>Kansas City</b>	<b>Grenada AB</b>
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>Granada C</b>



 **DATE:**  
MARCH 31, 2026

 **TIME:**  
6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Marbella  
AB

TIME	
6:00pm - 7:00pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dinner</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash Bar (~\$4.50-7.50/drink without tax)</li> <li>• House Salad w/ Ranch &amp; Balsamic Vinaigrette dressing</li> <li>• Smothered Chicken &amp; Sliced Roast Beef w/ Gravy</li> <li>• Garlic mashed potatoes, home style green beans</li> <li>• Fresh baked rolls</li> <li>• Chef's Choice of Dessert</li> </ul>
7:00pm - 8:00pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Awards</b></p>
8:00pm - 11:00pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Celebration!</b></p>

To our CHWs...

We thank you for all your hard work and dedication that you bring to not only your own communities, but to our workforce!

~Nothing for us, without us. ~



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &  
SENIOR SERVICES**



**DATE:**

APRIL 1, 2026



**TIME:**

7:00AM - 12:00PM

Session	Topic	Presenter	Room
7:00am - 8:00am	<b>Breakfast &amp; Networking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breakfast buffet with fresh pastries, fruits &amp; berries, bacon, ham, scrambled eggs, breakfast potatoes, biscuits, sausage gravy</li> <li>Juice, Coffee, and Teas</li> </ul>		Marbella AB
8:15am - 8:30am	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	CHWAM Board	Grenada AB
8:30am - 10:45am	<b>Ethics</b>	MCB	Grenada AB
10:45am - 11:00am	<b>Break</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assorted Sodas and Bottled Water</li> <li>Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee</li> <li>Assorted Herbal Tea</li> </ul>		Grenada Foyer
11:00am - 12:00pm	<b>Ethics (continued)</b>		Grenada AB
	<b>Safe travels everybody!</b>		



## Presenter Biographies

### **Beth Richards**

Beth Richards is the Program Director for the Alzheimer's and Dementia Program (BOLD) at the University of Missouri–Columbia, serving as a contractor for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Her professional background reflects a strong focus on public health program management and meaningful community engagement with the health sector. In this role, Beth leads implementation of the CDC-funded BOLD grant, advancing statewide public and professional education on dementia through the development of evidence-based resources. The program builds and supports statewide collaborations with organizations across the dementia care continuum to enhance coordinated and equitable dementia care efforts. Her work emphasizes strengthening community–clinical linkages between public health, community-based organizations, and healthcare systems, while also supporting dementia-related workforce development initiatives.

Additionally, the program supports a statewide dementia coalition in partnership with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services State Senior and Disability Services Unit, fostering collaboration among stakeholders to inform policy, planning, and systems-level improvements. Beth also plays a key role in building and managing statewide partnerships and supporting recruitment and participation in the University of Missouri Dementia and Alzheimer's ECHO program, a tele mentoring model that connects interdisciplinary experts with healthcare and community professionals to increase knowledge, confidence, and capacity to provide high-quality dementia care across Missouri. Earlier in her career, Beth led the Missouri Arthritis Program in similar public health initiatives for 22 years. Beth holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Sciences from the University of Central Missouri, reflecting applied knowledge of public health principles and population-based approaches to health improvement.

### **Brandy Stufflebean**

Brandy Stufflebean is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Team Leader for the STEPS program in Clinton, Missouri. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Kansas and her Master's degree in Social Work from Washburn University. Brandy has worked with Compass Health Network for nearly 10 years, bringing over 20+ years of extensive experience in behavioral health and social services. She leads her team with a focus on collaboration, client-centered care, and empowering individuals and families to achieve positive outcomes. Her dedication to mental health advocacy and leadership in clinical practice make her a trusted resource for both clients and colleagues.

### **Chris Pineda**

Chris Pineda, PhD, is an organizational leadership psychologist, author, and founder of Groundwork Leadership, known for his unique integration of modern leadership psychology and the indigenous wisdom of his Filipino ancestry. Chris has seen one truth proven again and again—in classrooms, boardrooms, and entire communities: transformation spreads through people, not programs. Throughout his career, he has partnered with executives, educators, philanthropic leaders, and community change makers on initiatives centered around purpose, belonging, and lasting cultural change. Every step of his journey has carried the same charge: helping people uncover purpose and create lasting change.

Chris teaches that transformation is caught, not taught—it spreads through lived example, authentic connection, and the environments leaders intentionally create. This conviction shapes his signature keynote, *Marked by Purpose*, and his core frameworks: the Culture of One™ and the 7 Conditions of Transformation™. Together, they equip leaders to build trust, strengthen belonging, align teams, and cultivate cultures where people, organizations, and communities thrive.



## Presenter Biographies

### **Demario Richardson**

Demario is a Team Building and Leadership Facilitator with a background in health equity, community advocacy, and organizational development. Demario has developed a workshop that is rooted in lived experience and professional expertise to help individuals and teams harness the impact of the authentic narrative. With years of experience leading teams, developing care models, and mentoring others, Demario empowers audiences to use storytelling as a tool for growth, culture change, and lasting impact.

### **Dr. Halima Ahmadi-Montecalvo**

Dr. Halima Ahmadi-Montecalvo is a public health leader with two decades of experience driving data-informed, value-based care. At Unite Us, she leads research and evaluation efforts, quantifying the social and financial ROI of social care solutions while helping partners optimize integrated care models addressing health-related social needs.

A sought-after global advisor and speaker in population health transformation, she specializes in measuring and scaling interventions that bridge healthcare and social care services. Her expertise in program evaluation and systems change has guided substantial cross-sector investments across diverse sectors, translating complex data into actionable strategies that improve lives at scale. She brings extensive experience working with local, state and federal agencies including CMS, CDC, HRSA, NIH, Department of Labor, Department of Defense, and Veterans Health Administration.

Dr. Ahmadi-Montecalvo serves as adjunct faculty at George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health and holds an MPH in epidemiology and community health from Brown University and a PhD in social and behavioral sciences from West Virginia University.

### **Drew Joyce**

Drew Joyce has dedicated over a decade to FCC-Behavioral Health, where they have made significant contributions to the agency and the community it serves. For eight years, Drew excelled as the Clinical Manager and Program Director of the Behavioral Health Clinic, demonstrating exceptional leadership and a commitment to improving mental health services.

In the past year, Drew has taken on the role of Clinical Development Officer, focusing on strengthening relationships between FCC-Behavioral Health and its community partners. Their efforts have been instrumental in fostering collaboration and enhancing the agency's impact.

A proud graduate of Liberty University, Drew earned a Master in Education in 2016. This academic achievement has been foundational in his approach to clinical management and community engagement.

Beyond their professional life, Drew is deeply involved in community service. They have served on the local school board for six years, contributed to township governance for eight years, and has been an active member of the city council for eight years. When not working or serving the community, Drew enjoys spending quality time with family and passionately supports his favorite sports teams: the San Diego Padres, Georgia Bulldogs, and Memphis Tigers.

### **Germysa Weatherall**

Dr. Germysa Weatherall, PhD is an epidemiologist and community-engaged public health professional committed to improving sexual health outcomes and advancing health equity. She serves as a Clinical Research Scientist at Washington University School of Medicine, where she supports STI/HIV research and program implementation.



## Presenter Biographies

### **Jasmine Kimbrough**

I am not your average Community Health Worker. I am a proud CHW who also supports her community as a doula, suicide crisis responder, maternal peer support specialist & facilitator. I am also a professional and paid comedian. Which in so many ways, has helped me connect to my clients and my community.

### **JJ Gossrau**

JJ Gossrau, MSW, LCSW, is the Director of the Early Psychosis Care (EPC) Center and the Director of Young Adult Services at the Department of Mental Health. Her responsibilities include supervision and development of the EPC Center and connecting with key stakeholders including state government offices, private and nonprofit community service agencies, universities, and community behavioral health provider agencies. She is passionate about outreaching, educating, and supporting young people, transforming psychosis care, ensuring timely access to effective early intervention services, and supporting System of Care teams. JJ received her Master of Social Work from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University. In her free time, she enjoys walking her dog Jessie and spending time with her husband and 2 boys.

### **Karen Ross**

Karen Ross is a Clinical Development Officer for FCC Behavioral Health. She has served as the Clinical Development Officer for FCC Behavioral Health in Southeast Missouri for a year and a half, and brings in over 17 years of experience in mental health, substance use, crisis, and human services. Throughout her career, she has worked extensively with diverse populations, focusing on improving access to care and fostering community resilience. Her current role centers on community development and supportive health initiatives, where she leverages her expertise to design and implement programs that address physical health needs and promotes self-sufficiency with managing chronic health conditions.

### **LaKisha Redditt**

LaKisha Redditt is a Community Health Worker, doula educator, and maternal health advocate with over nine years of experience supporting families and training community-based health workers. She is the founder of Virtuous Doula Training Academy and a co-founder of the St. Louis Community Health Worker Coalition. LaKisha has worked extensively in maternal and child health, workforce development, and trauma-informed education, with a focus on building culturally responsive, community-led care models.

Her work includes training CHWs, doulas, and youth, developing multilingual and community-centered curricula, and designing clinical and community-based maternal health programs. LaKisha is passionate about elevating the role of CHWs in maternal health systems and advancing health equity through collaboration, education, and community leadership.

### **Lauren Bruce**

Lauren is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a 2009 graduate of the Saint Louis University School of Social Work. Lauren is currently the Senior Director of Behavioral Health Crisis Centers with the Compass Health Network. Lauren has been with Compass Health (formerly Crider Health Center) for 12 years. Lauren has worked in a variety of clinical settings at Compass Health: working with adults as a Community Support Specialist and Supervisor in the Community Psychiatric Rehabilitation program, as the Team Leader and Therapist with youth and young adults, in the Assertive Community Treatment for Transitional Aged Youth (ACT-TAY) program. For the last six years she has worked within Crisis Services in a variety of roles to identify gaps in systems and worked improve access to care for the most vulnerable clients; Lauren has managed the Access Crisis Intervention and the Emergency Room Enhancement programs and now oversees the six Behavioral Health Crisis Centers and the Youth Behavioral Health Urgent Care.



## Presenter Biographies

### **Martha Harris**

Dynamic Community Health Worker with a proven track record at Katy Trail Community Health, excelling in care coordination and community outreach. Enhanced patient outcomes through effective health education and empathetic communication, leading to increased preventive care rates in underserved areas and Hispanic communities. Skilled in data collection, fostering partnerships to address critical health issues. Advocacy for disabled people.

### **Monica Bryant**

Monica Fawzy Bryant is a cancer rights attorney, speaker, and author, dedicated to improving access to and availability of quality information on cancer survivorship issues. Monica is the co-founder and Chief Mission Officer for Triage Cancer, a national, nonprofit organization that provides education on the practical and legal issues that may impact individuals diagnosed with cancer and their caregivers, through events, materials, and resources. Throughout her career, Monica has provided more than one thousand educational seminars, written articles, blogs, appeared on radio and television shows, and co-authored a book published by the American Bar Association called *Cancer Rights Law: An Effective Tool for Navigation*. Monica is an Adjunct Law Professor at University of Illinois at Chicago School of Law, teaching a class on Cancer Rights. Previously, Monica worked as Midwest Regional Director for a national disability rights organization, Legislative Counsel for U.S. Congresswoman Linda T. Sanchez and Law Clerk for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein. During her time in Congress, she focused on health, justice, civil rights, and women's issues.

### **Nancy Keim**

Nancy is a Registered Dietitian with a Bachelor's Degree from Southeast Missouri State University and a Master's Degree from Illinois State University. Nancy has spent her career in public health nutrition with the WIC program, Breastfeeding Peer Counseling, and the University of Missouri Extension's Family Nutrition Education Program.

### **Rose Chianta BSN, RN, MSCN**

I have a robust background in nursing, case management for a commercial payer, and over 18 years in the pharmaceutical industry, I am dedicated to fostering positive health outcomes for patients. My journey from bedside nursing to pharmaceutical expertise has ingrained a deep-seated passion for patient advocacy and access to care. I am committed to leveraging my experience and skills to make a difference in the lives of healthcare providers and patients, ensuring they receive the best possible care and support throughout their healthcare journey.

### **Ryan Smith**

Born and raised in St. Louis city and educated through the public school desegregation program. The only child of a single mother who was a Black Activist and preached family and community involvement, Ryan has been a "Community Advocate" all his life. Receiving his degree in Social Work through the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Ryan has been in the social service field over 30 years which prompted his interest in obtaining his certification as a Community Health Worker in 2016 through the St. Louis Community College at Forest Park as part of Cohort 3. Ryan has since embraced his calling as a CHW-C and worked to enhance his role as a "Accessible Role Model" in his communities and utilize CHW to uplift members of the communities he lives within and serves.

He has been part of the founding group for the non-profit organization, St. Louis CHW Coalition where he has served on its initial Board Of Leaders. The organization has continued to grow and is now a Social Enterprise where Ryan currently serves as its Director of CHW Leadership and Development.

Ryan has also been involved in the training of CHWs through the St. Louis Community College at Forest Park where he serves as a part-time facilitator for its CHW Certification class.



## Presenter Biographies

### **Shavanna Spratt**

Shavanna has spent the majority of her early years living in the county of Saint Louis and has been a resident of Ferguson, MO since 2012. As a Doula, Certified Community Health worker, over 10 years of employment in the healthcare field and personal experiences as a dedicated wife & mother of two; she has been supporting and advocating for Mothers and Babies. With her passion for empowering others, advancing racial equity, and putting community voices first; she has spent the last five years developing and hosting Da Hood Talks Podcast. A media platform with the mission to engage community, educate community and be a resource to the community it serves. She also Founded Da Hood Connect a local nonprofit located in Ferguson serving the Saint Louis region that strengthens support systems and reduces social and economic barriers with the aim of fostering the health and education of Black and under-resourced communities through media engagement and community events that celebrate black culture and identity. Shavanna knows that community voices are what's lacking, when decisions are being made for her community and others like it. She is working efficiently to change that narrative by advancing her own voice and elevating those in her community.

### **Shelly Harden**

Shelly Harden is a Community Health Consultant and works for Lafayette County Enterprises, Inc. She has over 30 years of experience with Medicaid applications, appeals and general knowledge. She recently worked at HCC Network for 8 years as a Community Health Worker helping families in the community with various applications and resources they need. Previous to that she worked at Truman Medical Center for 16 years, where she was a Financial Counseling Supervisor, where her staff helped patients with Medicaid applications and the slide fee scale.

In her current position, she can assist community members with applications including, Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, Disability, and Food Stamp enrollment as needed. If there is a parent/client/family member, or yourself in need of assistance with any of these applications or other resources, she will meet them wherever is easiest for the client.

### **Spencer Schaefer, PharmD**

Dr. R. Spencer Schaefer, PharmD, is an expert in healthcare data and technology innovation with over 26 years of experience within the Department of Veterans Affairs. As of 2026, he serves as the Co-founder and CTO of Lunar Analytics and is the retired Chief AI Officer for VA VISN 15.

Throughout his career, Dr. Schaefer has held key leadership roles, including Chief Health Informatics Officer (CHIO) at the Kansas City VA and AI Solution Architect for the VA National Artificial Intelligence Institute. He earned his PharmD from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and is AMIA 10x10 certified, focusing on integrating AI to optimize patient care outcomes for veteran populations.

### **Tabasha Davis**

Tabasha A. Davis (Coach T) is a Certified CHW, CHW Trainer, Supervisor, and motivational speaker with extensive expertise in HIV prevention, opioid response, trauma recovery, and community mobilization. She is known for her dynamic speaking style, transparency, and dedication to empowering underserved communities.

### **Thalia D. Baker-Ruiz**

Thalia D. Baker-Ruiz, CHW-C, FSD is a Network and Capacity Building Specialist and Words From the Workforce Lead with the Community Health Worker Coalition, where she supports statewide efforts to strengthen the CHW workforce through training, storytelling, and collaboration. A Certified Community Health Worker and instructor, she brings community-based expertise, creative practice, and lived experience to her work, centering authenticity and connection in every space she facilitates.

With a background in doula support, prenatal yoga, and community education, Thalia is deeply committed to elevating CHW voices and fostering environments where CHWs feel seen, valued, and equipped to thrive. Through Words From the Workforce, she amplifies CHW lived experiences, guided by a facilitation style that is warm, reflective, and empowering.



## Keynote Biographies

### **Erin Caple**

Erin Caple is the Technical Assistance Manager at the Center for Envision & the Center for Community Health Alignment (CCHA), where she leads national efforts to strengthen and sustain the Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce through training, technical assistance, resource creation and capacity-building. She has worked with communities in Delaware for several years in different spaces, bringing experience in family services, health education, and public health. Erin is passionate about creating interactive learning experiences that equip CHWs with practical tools, while also uplifting their voices and leadership. She is recognized nationally for her work advancing CHW integration, sustainability, and workforce development, and continues to center community voices in every project she leads.

### **Sonali Alluri**

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Email: [sonali@fjhmanagement.com](mailto:sonali@fjhmanagement.com)

### **Toniann Richards**

Toniann Richard is the CEO of HCC Network, a nonprofit organization that operates multiple Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and provides comprehensive health care services across the rural continuum of care. She is also a Fellow in the Health Center Executive Program at the University of Kansas Medical Center, where she gained valuable insights and skills in community health center management and public health. Toniann also holds a Certificate from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Executive and Continuing Education - Leadership Strategies for Evolving Health Care Executives.

With over 25 years of experience in nonprofit and community network leadership, Toniann has a passion for serving the underserved and improving access to care and health outcomes for rural populations. She has successfully raised millions in grant funding, developed strategic partnerships, and implemented innovative programs that address the challenges and opportunities of rural health. She has grown her staff from two to over 100 full-time employees, and has fostered a culture of excellence, collaboration, and empowerment within her organization. Her vision is to create a sustainable and integrated rural health network that delivers high-quality and patient-centered care to vulnerable communities.

Toniann serves in many leadership positions including her national presence on the board for RHI Hub and is the 2026 President Elect for the National Rural Health Association.





# **Brainstorming**

(Feel free to use this section for doodles, brainstorming ideas, networking notes, etc.)