



AA&NHPI Health Center Summit SPEAKER BIOS

ANDREA CARACOSTIS, MD, MPH As a physician with a Master's in public health, Dr. Andrea Caracostis has over 10 years' experience working with migrant and community health centers with special, vulnerable populations. She had worked as a provider at the 330 funded Migrant Health Center (MHC), and served as a consultant to the Migrant Clinicians Network providing technical assistance to Community Health Centers around the country. Dr. Caracostis has been active in the Bureau of Primary Health Care's Health Disparities Collaborative and a member of many national health care advisory committees. The Asian American Health Coalition DBA HOPE Clinic, under Dr. Caracostis's leadership since 2008, has advanced significantly over the past 8 years in its efforts to reduce Hepatitis B disparities through community awareness campaigns, affordable prevention services, and accessible treatment and medication while connecting patients to a health home. Moreover, HOPE Clinic's nationally recognized Be Free Houston hepatitis partnership has successfully helped numerous under and uninsured patients navigate the complicated path towards viral hepatitis B prevention and management while addressing policy and systems change in Texas.

KIMBERLY S.G. CHANG, MD, MPH, is a Family Physician at Asian Health Services in Oakland, California. She spent 2014-2015 as a Commonwealth Fund Mongan Fellow in Minority Health Policy at Harvard Medical School, where she completed a policy practicum addressing the role of Federally Qualified Health Centers in caring for victims of human trafficking, with the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations.

Prior to her fellowship, Dr. Chang was Site Director at the Frank Kiang Medical Center, Asian Health Services, directing the start-up of this family practice clinic, from assisting with design, developing programming, growing it to full capacity in less than two years, and expanding patients' language access to ten Asian languages. In addition, she provided care for many commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and is a Co-founder and Steering Committee Member of HEAL Trafficking. She has trained thousands of front-line multidisciplinary professionals on the healthcare intersect with human trafficking across the United States, and internationally to the Compact of Free Association nations in the Western Pacific. She served on a Technical Working Group for the Administration for Children and Families, to develop a pilot training for health care professionals on human trafficking. She currently serves as 2nd Vice Chair of the National Association of Community Health Center's Committee on Service Integration on Behavioral Health and HIV.

Her presentations and publications have focused on cultural competency, human trafficking issues, underserved populations, and global health issues, and in December 2015, provided invited expert testimony for a Congressional Briefing for the US Helsinki Commission on "Best Practices in Rescuing Trafficking Victims". In 2011, she was nationally recognized with a Physician Advocacy Merit Award from the Institute on Medicine as a Profession. Dr. Chang received her MD from the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, completed her family medicine residency at San Francisco General Hospital, the University of California, San Francisco, and received her MPH from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, where she was awarded the Dr. Fang-Ching Sun Memorial Award for demonstrated commitment to promoting the health of vulnerable people.



SHERRY CHEN, MPH, CHES is a health scientist on the Education, Training and Communication team in CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis. She primarily works on the *Know Hepatitis B* campaign, which collaborates closely with community partners to promote testing for hepatitis B among Asian Americans. Before joining DVH, she helped develop nutrition messages on feeding infants and young children for a communication campaign to improve maternal and child health outcomes with the BBC World Service Trust in Delhi, India, and trained Burundi refugee women on achieving transportation self-sufficiency with the Global Growers Network. She received her BS in Psychobiology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her MPH from Emory University.

DANIEL E. DAWES, JD is a nationally recognized leader in the health equity movement and has led numerous efforts to address health policy issues impacting vulnerable, underserved, and marginalized populations. He is a health care attorney and administrator, and serves as the executive director of government affairs and health policy at Morehouse School of Medicine. He is also a lecturer of health law and policy at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute and the author of the groundbreaking new book, *150 Years of ObamaCare*.

Dawes was instrumental in shaping the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) and founded and chaired the largest advocacy group, the National Working Group on Health Disparities and Health Reform, focused on developing comprehensive, inclusive and meaningful legislation to reform the health care system and address the disparities in health care and health status among racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, women, children, LGBT individuals, and other vulnerable groups in the United States. He is the co-founder of the Health Equity Leadership and Exchange Network (HELEN), which is a national network of health equity champions in virtually every state and territory.

Dawes often lectures and presents on health law and policy while serving simultaneously on several boards, commissions, and councils focused on health equity and health reform. He is an advisor to international, national, regional, state and municipal policymakers, as well as think tanks, associations, foundations, corporations, and nonprofit organizations.

JULI HISHIDA is a Project Manager for the Special Projects team at the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. She develops informational and educational resources on various administrative and behavioral health topics relevant to homeless healthcare. Beginning July 2016 Juli will be the liaison between the Council and AAPCHO for the Enabling Services Data Collection project.



ALVARO M. HUERTA works to defend and advance the rights of low-income immigrants and their family members through litigation, administrative advocacy, and community education. His work focuses on ensuring that low-income immigrant families are not wrongly denied access to quality health care as states and municipalities implement federal health care reform. His practice also includes litigation on due process, equal protection and civil rights, and he is currently co-counsel on cases challenging anti-immigrant state legislation and federal detention. Before joining NILC as a Skadden Fellow in 2011, Mr. Huerta clerked for the Honorable Judge Harry Pregerson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Prior to law school, Mr. Huerta worked at the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, where he directed the organization's communications, community education, and advocacy strategies on various local, state, and federal immigration issues. Mr. Huerta holds a B.S. from Yale College and a J.D. from Stanford Law School. He is the son and grandson of Mexican immigrants to the United States.

VICTORIA HUYNH is young professional with an interest in cultural competency, community building, strategic planning, and event planning within the immigrant and refugee communities. Ms. Huynh is currently the Vice President of the Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc. (CPACS), the first largest and longest standing Asian American and Pacific Islander organization serving the immigrant, refugee, and unprivileged communities in the South. Born to Vietnamese refugee parents, Ms. Huynh's has a passion with serving immigrant and refugee families and communities and has been affiliated with CPACS for more than 16 years.

She currently serves and advocates for the immigrant and refugee communities on various local and state community Boards/Coalitions/Committees including the Immigrant Hope-Atlanta (Board), Asian Pacific American Council (APAC Board), Delta Phi Lambda Asian Interest Sorority (Alumni), Gwinnett Multicultural Advisory Committee (Co-Chair), Gwinnett Neighborhood Leadership Institute (Board), Georgia AAPI Community Coalition (Chair), Georgia SNAP Steering and LEP Subcommittee (Co-Chair), National Aim for Equity Coalition (Advocacy Co-Chair), ARC Millennial Advisory Panel, etc. Through our work with the community, Ms. Huynh was selected as the 25 Most Influential Asian Americans in Georgia in 2015. In 2015, Ms. Huynh was also selected as member of the Region IV Regional Health Equity Council and serves as their current Cultural Competency Committee Co-Chair.

CYNTHIA JORGENSEN, DRPH is the Lead for Education, Training and Communication in CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis, where she and her team are responsible for the development and implementation of the Know More Hepatitis and the Know Hepatitis B national education campaigns. Dr. Jorgensen has been with the CDC for over 27 years, and prior to joining DVH, led several national cancer prevention campaigns, as well as starting her communication work in HIV/AIDS prevention. She is a Past President of national SOPHE (Society for Public Health Education), a former chair of CDC's Behavioral Sciences Working Group and is an adjunct Associate Professor at Emory University's School of Public Health, where she teaches classes on health communication and behavioral theory.



CHAIWON KIM is the first Asian American woman to serve as CEO / President of the Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc. (CPACS), the first and only multi-service community center in the Southeast serving the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities. Her efforts have grown CPACS from a volunteer-run organization formed to help local Korean Americans, into a multi-service organization with a diverse staff of more than 100+ full- and part-time employees with the ability to speak 17 different languages (Asian and non-Asian). Under her direction, CPACS capacity has grown from 791 clients served per month in 1999 to 2,700 clients served per month in 2015.

A Registered Nurse by profession, Chaiwon recognized the need for a clinic in 1990 when she began working at CPACS as a volunteer receptionist. She spearheaded the development of CPACS free clinic soon after, which provided basic health checks and immunizations for the immigrant community. In 1999 she initiated the Asian Breast Care program—a comprehensive program aimed at providing culturally and linguistically appropriate, affordable breast cancer screening to uninsured and underinsured API women. Out of the Asian Breast Care Program Chaiwon developed the Korean and Chinese cancer support groups, the first and only in-language support groups of their kind in Georgia. In 2000, CPACS became a certified HIV testing and counseling center and in 2006 Chaiwon secured funding through HUD to develop the first Georgia senior housing complex in 2006—only the second for Asian Americans in the nation. Chaiwon received certification as an addiction counselor and in 2008 opened RICE Center, a satellite office to provide mental health counseling. Finally, in 2009 Chaiwon opened DOWA clinic, another free clinic, staffed by bi-lingual, bi-cultural volunteer physicians.

JEN LEE, MPH is the Director of Community Services and Partnerships at the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Care Organizations (AAPCHO). She is the director of AAPCHO's Bureau of Primary Health Care National Cooperative Agreement providing technical assistance and training for AA&NHPI-serving community health centers nationally, the development of new community health centers, and AAPCHO's Civic Engagement Initiative. Prior to joining AAPCHO, she spent 14 years in a federally qualified community health center, Asian Health Services, in Oakland, CA. She began at the health center as a community health worker and over the years became Director of Community Services and Deputy Director of Operations providing oversight of the health center's school-based health services, eligibility and enrollment, community outreach, translation and medical interpreter certification, and advocacy initiatives including the establishment of the health center's Patient Leadership Council program. She has worked in health education and prevention for over 20 years and has great passion for community health centers and their mission in providing equitable, quality, affordable, culturally-responsive and accountable health care for all communities.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Anthropology from Georgia State University, and her Masters in Public Health from San Francisco State University, and is a proud member of the inaugural 2009 class of the Blue Shield of California and University of California San Francisco Center for the Health Professions Clinic Leadership Institute.



JULIA LIOU, MPH is the Director of Program Planning and Development for Asian Health Services (AHS), a comprehensive community health center located in Oakland Chinatown that provides medical care, health education, insurance counseling and client advocacy to the underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population in Alameda County, California. At AHS, she oversees program planning and grants, fundraising as well as leads various community projects. As its co-founder and manager, Julia manages the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative, a statewide effort to address the health and safety issues nail salon workers face in their work environment. Julia has helped grow the Collaborative from a small six-member coalition to a statewide coalition with over 25 statewide partners. The Collaborative has received several awards for its work, including a Momentum Award from the Women's Foundation, a Community Health Champion Award from the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum, a Community Champion Award from the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus of the American Public Health Association, and an EPA Environmental Justice Champion Award.

During her time at AHS, she also led the *Revive Chinatown!* project, a community transportation and urban planning effort, and in partnership with the City of Oakland, secured funds to implement innovative pedestrian and traffic safety capital improvements. She has also published policy recommendations around language access, and peer reviewed articles related to pedestrian safety, community health and nail salon workers. Julia has recently been named NonProfit Pro's "Unsung Hero" and has received "Excellence in Advocacy" Awards from the Community Health Center Network. Julia holds a Masters in Public Health from the University of California at Los Angeles where she served as the Public Health Student Association President.

MICHAEL MCKEE is currently the Director of Health Services and Community Partnerships at International Community Health Services where he has worked since 2005. He has a Masters of Education in Community Health Education from Kent State University in Ohio and has more than 25 years' experience practicing community and public health education, administration and research in nonprofit, academic and government agencies, serving many diverse communities. Areas of interest and experience include: community health workers; outreach and enrollment; school based health services; culturally and linguistically tailored health education; enabling services; communicable diseases; population health and chronic disease self-management. He has collaborated on several community based participatory research (CBPR) projects through AAPCHO, University of Washington and Public Health Seattle & King County to address health disparities in Asian American and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander populations. He has presented his work at local, state, and national conferences, as well as online.

MOLLY MEINBRESSE is the Director of Research for the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. She is responsible for establishing the national research agenda on homelessness and health care and managing the nationally-focused Health Care for the Homeless Practice-Based Research Network. Molly collaborates with federally-funded Health Care Homeless grantees, academic researchers, and other national health care and advocacy agencies to develop and conduct research activities that will facilitate improved health care practices and policies. Molly also serves as the Membership Chair for the Caucus on Homelessness of the American Public Health Association.



KATE MORARAS, MPH is the Senior Program Director at the Hepatitis B Foundation and Director of Hep B United. Kate is responsible for the development and management of Hep B United, a national coalition addressing hepatitis B with a focus on eliminating hepatitis B-related health disparities among Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.

Previously, Kate served as Senior Advisor to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders where she led the agency's health policy and community engagement strategies. Prior to joining the Initiative, Kate was a research fellow at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she supported the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health on development and coordination of strategies related to improving the health of AAPI communities.

Kate began her public health work at the American Diabetes Association focusing on racial/ethnic disparities and diabetes policy. Kate received her Master's Degree in Public Health from the George Washington University.

DR. RENARD L. MURRAY, Consortium Administrator, Consortium for Quality Improvement and Survey & Certifications Operations (CQISCO), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

On June 3, 2015, CMS announced that Renard L. Murray, D.M., accepted the position of Consortium Administrator for Quality Improvement and Survey and Certifications Operations (CQISCO). In this role, Murray's duties are national in scope. As CQISCO Consortium Administrator, Murray has field oversight of CMS' clinical quality and survey and certification missions across the United States and its territories, overseeing facilities ranging from the U.S. Virgin Islands in the Caribbean to the Marianas Islands in the Western Pacific.

As recently as July of 2009, Murray was named the Regional Administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - Atlanta and Dallas Regional Offices. In that position, Murray was responsible for External Affairs and served as the CMS spokesman for the 13 states in the two regions. The states in the Atlanta region, the largest CMS region in the nation, are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Five states, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas make up the Dallas region that was also under Murray's watch. Combined, these two regions contain the largest number of Medicare beneficiaries in the U.S.

Murray previously served as Acting Regional Administrator for the CMS Regional Offices in Boston and New York. Directly before his return to Atlanta in 2008, Murray was the Special Assistant to the CMS Chief Operating Officer in Baltimore, Md. In his early days at CMS, Murray served as the Associate Regional Administrator responsible for the Regional Office's Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) policy branches and the region's Financial Management Operations.



Murray came to the CMS Atlanta Regional Office from the Social Security Administration (SSA) in 1999. At SSA, Murray held the positions of Claims Representative, Operations Supervisor and District Manager.

A native of Ama, La., Renard L. Murray holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Xavier University in New Orleans, La., a Master of Arts degree in Management from the University of Phoenix in Kenner, La. and a Doctorate in Management from the University of Phoenix in Phoenix, Ariz.

VIJA SEHGAL, MD, MPH, PHD is the Chief Quality Officer and a Pediatrician at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center in Waianae, Hawaii. She serves on NACHC's Clinical Practice Committee and also chairs the External Affairs Committee of the Hawaii PCA Board. She is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the John A. Burns School of Medicine in Honolulu, Hawaii as well. Dr. Sehgal graduated with a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley and received her Masters of Public Health from the University of Michigan. An East West Center Fellowship supported her PhD studies in Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the University of Hawaii. Dr. Sehgal received her Medical degree from the University of Miami, completed her Pediatric residency training at the John A. Burns School of Medicine in Honolulu and is Board certified in Pediatrics. She has been in clinical practice at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center for the past 22 years.

KIMLEE SUREEMEE is the Assistant Manager of the Policy, Advocacy and Development (PAD) Department at Asian Services In Action, Inc. (ASIA). Ms. Sureemee joined ASIA as a Fellow where she contributed to the success and continual increase of ASIA's fundraising and development program. Demonstrated through her leadership, she initiated the PAD Department, running the only statewide civic engagement and education program focused on increasing voter turnout within the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Prior to this, Ms. Sureemee worked in Brussels, Belgium as the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Delegate to the Romanian Delegation at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Her work with the organization inspired her to make a difference building the community in her own backyard. Ms. Sureemee earned her BA in International Policy at Cleveland State University.

MARIKO TOYOJI, is a Research Administrator at International Community Health Services where she coordinates the HIT-B project, a community engaged research collaboration to leverage health information technology systems to help address hepatitis B disparities. She has 5 years of experience working with AAPI communities to address hepatitis B disparities through community based health education, screening and research. She currently serves as the Northwest Regional Director for the National Task Force on Hepatitis B: Focus on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She has a Masters of Public Health in Health Services from the University of Washington.



ISHA WEERASINGHE is the Director for Policy and Advocacy at AAPCHO. As part of her work, Isha works with local and national partners within and outside the AAPCHO network to help ensure that the needs of AA&NHPI-serving community health centers are a national priority. Isha is the Co-Chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans' (NCAPA) Health Committee, Vice Chair of the National Task Force on Hepatitis B: Focus on Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, advises Hep B United, a national coalition focused on reducing hepatitis B disparities on policy issues, and is a board member of the South Asian Public Health Association (SAPHA). Prior to joining AAPCHO, she worked at New York University's Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH), for a project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct community-based participatory research called B Free CEED: National Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Hepatitis B Disparities. She has also worked for The Belaku Trust, an NGO in Bangalore, India focused on women's empowerment and health research, for Pfizer, Inc. in comparative effectiveness and outcomes research, and for the New York State Department of Health's AIDS Institute. Isha received her Bachelor's in Arts from Bryn Mawr College, and her Master's in Science from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

ROSY CHANG WEIR, PHD. As Director of Research at the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, Dr. Weir oversees the research department including the Community IRB and Data Warehouse. She leads and collaborates on national projects including the Community Health Applied Research Network, Hepatitis B technology intervention, standardized social determinants of health risk assessment protocol, the impact of enabling services, and PCORI research training. She has also served as an expert advisor on HRSA and PCORI initiatives. An immigrant from Laos, Dr. Weir received her Bachelor's Degree and PhD in Psychology at the University of California, San Diego and Santa Cruz, respectively.