

Speaker & Presenter Biographies



Dr. Victoria Breckwich Vásquez

*Assistant Professor, University of Washington - Bothell
Bothell, WA*

Master of Ceremonies

Dr. Breckwich Vásquez is an assistant professor at University of Washington Bothell and is on the Board of Directors of the Latino Community Fund of Washington State. She focuses on Latinx health using Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) and other engagement frameworks. Her research focuses on efforts that build community resilience in Latinx communities (promotora stories), and sexual violence prevention and environmental justice issues in farmworker communities. She is interested in partnership evaluation, and community engagement methods that utilize qualitative research methods including case studies. She has particular research interest in place-based interventions, and health and other policies that promote health equity through inter-sectoral strategies. Dr. Breckwich Vasquez teaches Introduction to Public Health, Public Health Fieldwork, Health Policy, Community Engagement in Health Interventions and Research, Health Actions for Women, Latinx Engagement & Assessment, and Latinx Health & Culture. She is a member of the External Advisory Board for Migrant Clinicians Network and works closely with El Proyecto Bienestar, a grassroots environmental justice organization in the Yakima Valley. She was formerly a Commissioner on the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs. She especially enjoys mentoring and supervising undergraduate and graduate students. She is Peruvian-American, originally from Los Angeles, enjoys cycling and hiking around the Pacific Northwest and loves Balkan and Salsa Dancing whenever she gets a break from teaching.



Lisa van der Lugt

*Director, Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs & Member of the Healthier WA Innovation
Leadership Network - WA State Healthcare Transformation
Olympia, WA*

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Lisa van der Lugt was appointed by Governor Inslee as Executive Director at the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs in April 2017. The Commission is a statewide organization whose mission is to improve public policy development and the delivery of government services to the Hispanic community. She has deep roots as a Latina and familial ties to the Latino community of Washington. She was raised in Grandview, located in the Yakima Valley and knows the value and importance of serving our limited English proficiency (LEP) communities and ensuring their rights are protected. She has an extensive understanding of both the private and public sector, having spent over 25 years dedicated to public service and in private sector executive management. She began her state service and work to advocate for our community as Chief of Staff for Congressman Jay Inslee in 1990. She would later continue her executive work as the Chief of Staff to Melinda Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She returned to working for Governor Inslee leading his Performance and Regulatory Processes Transition Advisory Committee and then as his Special Assistant. Lisa serves on the Washington State Business Diversity Subcabinet for Governor Inslee, the Washington State Adult Education Advisory Council, the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, and is an advisor to the Latino Leadership Network for Washington state employees. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Olympia's Culturally Integrated Education for Latinos Organization (CIELO).



Laura Zaichkin

*Chief Deputy Policy Officer, Washington State Health Care Authority
Olympia, WA*

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Laura Kate Zaichkin is the Acting Chief Policy Officer for the Washington State Health Care Authority, where she advises executive leaders and the state’s authorizing environment on purchasing policy and health reform efforts. She leads the Office of Health Innovation and Reform, HCA’s health policy and innovation engine primarily focused on the development and implementation of the state’s plan for health systems transformation, called Healthier Washington. Prior to joining HCA in 2013, Laura was with the National Quality Forum in Washington DC where she convened a public-private partnership of national health care entities to help shape and

catalyze action around the National Quality Strategy. Laura has a master’s degree in public health policy from The George Washington University.



Dr. Gabriel Garcia

*The William and Dorothy Kaye University Fellow in Undergraduate Education and Professor of Medicine
(Gastroenterology and Hepatology), Stanford University Medical Center
Palo Alto, CA*

Keynote Address:

Giving Voice to Diverse Communities: Developing a Healthcare Workforce that Addresses the Social Determinants in Improving Latino Health

Dr. Gabriel Garcia is Professor of Medicine, and the William and Dorothy Kaye University Fellow in Undergraduate Education at Stanford University. Born in Havana, Cuba on April 29, 1952. Moved to South Florida with parents and 2 sisters in 1960 and to San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1964. Married Marni Brown on August 11, 1978, one daughter Kim.

He received his BA from Cornell University in 1973, and his M.D. from New York University in 1977. He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology, specializes in the care of patients with viral hepatitis and other liver diseases, and has research interests in the natural history, diagnostic studies and management of patients with liver diseases.

He chaired the Committee on Admissions and was Associate Dean of Medical School Admissions for Stanford University from 2000 to 2014. In 2004 he was invited to provide testimony to the Institute of Medicine Committee on Institutional and Policy Level Strategies on Increasing the Diversity of the U.S. Health Care Workforce, and in 2005 was a key informant to the Sullivan Alliance for Diversity in the Health Workforce. Since 2008 he has been a faculty advisor to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Medical Education Research Group at Stanford, and served from 2010 to 2012 on the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Group on Student Affairs LGBT Task Force. From 2000 to 2003 and from 2010 to 2012 he served as the Chair of the AAMC Western Group of Student Affairs, and from 2012 to 2014 served as the Chair of the Committee on Admissions of the AAMC Group on Student Affairs.

From 2006 to 2010 he was the Peter E. Haas Faculty Director at the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University. He co-directs a yearlong undergraduate Community Health Advocacy Program (a service-learning community health course for undergraduates at Stanford University), a course entitled Foundations in Community Health Engagement aimed at preparing students for public service in health facilities, and a international service learning program entitled Oaxaca on Both Sides of the Border to address issues at the intersection of immigration, poverty and health. Since 2003 he has supervised an alternative spring break for undergraduates that examines the social determinants of health of California farm workers, and since 2008 an alternative spring break for undergraduates and medical students that examines issues of health and housing in the Rosebud Indian reservation.

Member of the Board of Directors of Puente a la Salud Comunitaria (mission: contributes to food sovereignty and advances the health and well-being of rural communities in Mexico by promoting the cultivation, consumption and commercialization of amaranth). Member and current co-chair of the San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission (mission: Cultivating San Mateo County as a welcoming and safe environment where its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community members can thrive) since 2014.



Claudia Medina

*Director, Community Health Worker Initiative at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center - Office of Community Health
Albuquerque, NM*

Session I:

Community Health Workers: At the Forefront of Improving Health Outcomes in Latino Communities

Claudia is the Director of the University of New Mexico, Community Health Worker Initiatives (CHWI). In that capacity she has developed, piloted and evaluated several programs and tools aimed at integrating Community Health Workers (CHW's) into the work force.

Before working for UNM, Claudia was the co-founder and executive director for 14 years of Enlace Comunitario (EC), an Albuquerque non-profit serving Latino immigrant victims of domestic violence and engaging in community development efforts.

Claudia has also been, and continue to be part of several non-profit boards and tasks forces. Claudia has a Law Degree, an M.A. in Family Studies and an M.A. in Latin American Studies with a concentration in Community Planning.



Brent Crandal, PhD

*Project Director & Principal Investigator at Chadwick Center for Children, Youth and Families at Rady Children's Hospital
San Diego, CA*

Plenary Session:

ACES/Trauma Informed Care: Important Considerations in Providing Meaningful Care & Services in Latino Communities

Brent Crandal, Ph.D., is a project director and principal investigator at the Chadwick Center for Children and Families at Rady Children's Hospital San Diego, working to strengthen California's Child Welfare and Children's Behavioral Health systems. Through the California Screening, Assessment and Treatment (CASAT) Initiative and the Advancing California's Trauma-Informed Systems (ACTS)

Project he advances trauma-informed care, expands access to evidence-based treatments, and contributes to the research literature on mental health and trauma screening, cross-system collaboration, and caregiver engagement in children's behavioral health services. Dr. Crandal's enthusiasm for system-level progress is driven by his background as a licensed clinical psychologist and his work with children, youth, and families with mental health needs. He co-authored Modular CBT for Children and Adolescents with Depression: A Clinician's Guide to Individualized Treatment, has taught undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of San Diego, presents nationally, and as a huge Batman fan, even had the chance to present at Comic-Con San Diego this year. One of the biggest professional perks for Dr. Crandal is having the opportunity to work alongside and interact with the actual superheroes who are strengthening children and families in need on a daily basis.



Elva Yañez

*Director of Health Equity, Prevention Institute
Los Angeles, CA*

Session II:

Improving Health Equity: Changing Public Health Policy to Focus on Prevention

Elva Yañez, MS, Director, joined Prevention Institute to lead its Health Equity team in 2015. As a member of Prevention Institute’s senior leadership team, she contributes to the organization’s overall mission and functioning. Ms. Yañez helps ensure that health equity is embedded in the organization’s core strategic directions, including Transforming our Health System and California Approach program areas. Over the past twenty years, Ms. Yañez has worked extensively on public policy initiatives emphasizing environmental approaches to prevention and health equity outcomes. Ms. Yañez began her public health career working on alcohol policy at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism’s Prevention

Research Center and the Marin Institute for Alcohol and Other Drug Problems. As part of the RWJF Fighting Back Initiative she was a leader in the precedent-setting land use policy campaign to address the over concentration of problem liquor stores in Oakland’s low income African American and Latino neighborhoods. In the tobacco control arena, Ms. Yañez served as Senior Associate Director at Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights. In addition to developing and managing critical policy database functions, she provided training and technical assistance services to help scores of communities throughout the U.S. enact smoke-free policies. At RWJF’s Smokeless States and Policy and Advocacy for Tobacco and Health (PATH) initiatives, Ms. Yañez oversaw grantee activities and helped coalitions apply meld equity approaches with their tobacco policy efforts. More recently, Ms. Yañez applied her policy advocacy and systems change skill set to address park inequities, environmental impacts, land use and health disparities in Los Angeles’ low income communities of color. She has led innovative park and health equity initiatives on behalf of environmental and environmental justice organizations including the Trust for Public Land, the Audubon Society and the Los Angeles Collaborative for Environmental Health and Justice. Prior to joining Prevention Institute, Ms. Yañez’s private consulting firm, Colibri Strategies, provided policy advocacy, strategic planning and communications services to non-profit organizations, government agencies and foundations in the areas of public policy, urban parks, public health, land use and the built environment. Ms. Yañez served on Prevention Institute’s Board of Directors from 2007-2014 and currently serves as a California State Park and Recreation Commissioner, appointed by Governor Jerry Brown.



Senator Rebecca Saldaña

*Senator, 37th Leg District
Seattle, WA*

Call to Action

Rebecca Saldaña is serving her first term in the state Senate, having been appointed to the seat in Dec. 2016.

Rebecca grew up in the Delridge neighborhood of Seattle and has lived and worked primarily in Seattle and Oregon. She has expertise in a variety of areas including worker and immigrant advocacy, transit equity, women’s rights, social and racial justice, civic engagement, affordable housing and sustainable community development.

Known as a problem solver and tireless advocate, Rebecca most recently served as the Executive Director for Puget Sound Sage – a nonprofit that promotes affordable and equitable housing and transportation policies, environmental justice and workers’ rights. In that role, she helped secure \$16

million in city funding for Equitable Development Initiatives in the 37th legislative district, a future Graham Street Light Rail Station to better serve our district residents, and transportation equity wins including a low income transit fare program.

Rebecca is on the Senate Democratic Leadership team, serving as caucus Whip, and sits on the Transportation Committee and the Commerce, Labor & Sports Committee. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Humanities from Seattle University, and lives in Rainier Beach/Skyway with her husband and two youngest children.