

WORKSHOP V

Addressing Disparities in HIV
Thursday, October 18, 2018

Panel Moderator



**Brandon Wollerson, Administrator, HIV Care Integration Services,
CommUnityCare Health Centers**

Brandon Wollerson is an accomplished health care professional serving the needs of the HIV/AIDS and LGBTQ communities in Central Texas. Brandon is the Practice Administrator at CommUnityCare's David Powell Health Center, the leading provider of integrated health services for persons living with HIV/AIDS in Central Texas.

Brandon is active in a variety of local and statewide health equity-related causes. He is a member of the City of Austin's LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission, where he chairs the Health Equity Working Group. Brandon serves as the Austin regional co-chair for the Texas HIV Syndicate, which is the statewide HIV prevention and care services planning group. He also serves as a founding task force member of Austin's Fast-Track Cities, which is part of a global initiative focused on ending the HIV epidemic. Brandon was a founding member of Austin's HIV/AIDS and Aging Coalition, a coalition focused on addressing the unique needs and service challenges of those aging with HIV/AIDS in Central Texas. Brandon earned his Bachelor of Arts in sociology from Centenary College of Louisiana, and his Master of Science in social work from the University of Texas at Austin.

Panelists



Michael Carrillo, Head of Strategic Partnerships Business, Center for Health Empowerment

Michael Carrillo is currently serving as the Strategic Partnership Business Unit Head and a member of the leadership team at Center for Health Empowerment (CHE) where he is responsible for managing all external partnerships. Michael is also responsible for developing and executing strategic plans that are aligned with CHE's overall business strategy and goals. Working both internally and externally, Michael is also accountable for strengthening current relationships and building collaborative efforts that foster and facilitate continued growth. Michael holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas State University.



Stephanie Guerra, Prevention Programs Assistant, AIDS Services of Austin

Stephanie has worked in the Prevention Department at AIDS Services of Austin (ASA) for the past eleven years, and has been involved in the field of HIV/AIDS for sixteen years working with diverse communities from a broad range of demographics, backgrounds, and socio-economic statuses. As the former Testing & Linkage to Care Coordinator at ASA, she was very instrumental in working collaboratively with her team, other service providers, and community partners in moving ASA's HIV Testing Program to align with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) and High Impact Prevention (NHIP). In her current role, Stephanie invests time in Austin's Fast Track Cities initiative with a high emphasis of getting the number of new infections to zero. As a Trans* Latinx

Tejana, and former Board Member of the Transgender Education Network of Texas, Stephanie has played a vital role in the transgender community by being a voice, advocate, mentor, and educator through private and public forums. In the movement to halt discrimination through social, legislative, and corporate education, Stephanie has been a fierce hero, and has spent numerous hours talking with representatives at all levels about issues and laws that impact the transgender community.



Akeshia Johnson Smothers, MSW, HIV/STI Program Manager, Austin Public Health

In her role, Akeshia manages all aspects of the city's HIV Prevention, Public Health Follow-Up (PHFU) and Medical Case Management programs. Akeshia began her career in HIV/STI as a teenager in New Orleans, Louisiana when she was personally impacted by the death of a close family member due to complications from AIDS. From that moment in time, she set forth on a path of education and advocacy in the fight against the socio-economic difference that directly impact health outcomes. With over 18 years in this field, Akeshia is no stranger to the HIV/STI arena. Her previous roles in both Louisiana and Texas, as an Outreach Worker, Peer Educator, HIV Counselor and Tester, Disease

Intervention Specialist, PHFU Supervisor, PHFU Program Consultant, Trainer and HIV/STI Program Manager, has provided her with a wealth of experience pertaining to HIV/STIs, community engagement, staff and grant management.



Marcus Cruz Sanchez, Director of Communications and Outreach, Kind Clinic

Marcus Cruz Sanchez has a long history of innovation, activism, advocacy and education in Austin's LGBTQ Communities and beyond. In the early 2000s, Marcus began volunteering for AIDS Services of Austin's (ASA) Octopus Club, helping to raise thousands of dollars for ASA's Paul Kirby Fund, which provides emergency assistance for people living with HIV and AIDS. For the past ten years, Marcus has curated the Penis Project, a wildly successful feature of the annual Art Erotica fundraiser.

In 2011, Marcus joined the ASA staff,, and in that time managed The Q Austin, where he re-launched our city's most aggressive and comprehensive program aimed at promoting sexual health and empowering young gay, bi, trans and queer men. Marcus is also a co-founder of Texas Health Action's Kind Clinic, formerly Austin PrEP Access Project, Austin's first non-profit dedicated to helping people overcome barriers to accessing PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis). Marcus now serves as Kind Clinic's Director of Marketing and Communications. With a special interest in minority and priority populations, Marcus' work has been recognized for its innovative use of creative works, new media, and sex-positive messaging. Marcus has spoken on local and national platforms to help other organization replicate the successful models he has helped create. Marcus has served as a board member for Austin Harm Reduction Coalition, Texas Health Action, Center for Health Empowerment, and is a current board member of Conspirare. Marcus has a passion for community engagement through art and is dedicated to making Austin a healthier place to live.



Dale Thele, 2017 Community Health Champion, HIV Advocate

Dale Thele is a grassroots HIV/AIDS advocate, promoting HIV/AIDS awareness in Central Texas. He was diagnosed with Stage III HIV on December 1, 2012. Dale currently serves on the Austin Area Comprehensive HIV Planning Council. He is a frequent guest speaker at UT School of Public Health; was featured in Austin Monthly: The Face of AIDS in Sept. 2014, The Austin Chronicle (print and video): Standing Witness - On Living Through the History of AIDS in July 2016 and POZ Stories interview in July 2017. Born and raised in Oklahoma, Dale made Austin his home in 1984.

Upcoming Events:

Social Hour



Please join us for our final social hour immediately following the workshop. The venue is a six minute walk from our office.

Eastside Tavern - 1510 E. Cesar Chavez St. Austin, TX 78702

Policy Training

Hosted by the Central Health Equity Policy (CHEP) Council



The CHEP Council would like to invite the Community Health Champions to participate in a policy training with featured panelist Texas State Representative Donna Howard.

RSVP link will be included in the workshop follow-up email.

Tuesday, November 7 | 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Central Health - 1111 E. Cesar Chavez St. Austin, TX, 78702

Achieving System-Level Outcomes: Moving Beyond Projects Toward Population Health A Regional Health Care Partnership 7 Stakeholder Event



Attendees will learn how regional providers are moving beyond projects to system-level outcomes for populations. Providers will get resources and connections to support achievement in the new DSRIP framework.

Tuesday, November 13 | 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Omni Austin Hotel Southpark
4140 Governors Row, Austin, TX 78744
RSVP: <https://bit.ly/2CjiSox>

Call for volunteers: The RHP 7 team is looking for volunteers to help at this event. If you are interested and available, please email Anais.Cruz@centralhealth.net with your shift preference.

Volunteer shifts available:

- Shift 1: Registration and Greeter from 8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (3 volunteers needed)
- Shift 2: Q&A Assistant from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (2 volunteers needed)

Championing for a Healthier Community
An Annual Community Health Champions Celebration

