



Allies for Reaching
Community
Health Equity

A project of the Center for Global Policy Solutions



THE WOMEN'S WEALTH & HEALTH EQUITY SUMMIT

JULY 18-19, 2017 | OXON HILL, MARYLAND

Dear Colleagues,

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to the Women's Wealth and Health Equity Summit. This event is hosted by Allies for Reaching Community Health Equity (ARCHE), an initiative of the Center for Global Policy Solutions (CGPS). Over the coming days, experts, practitioners, and advocates from around the country will convene to address health and wealth inequities affecting women and families. Together, we will use an intersectional framework to examine the effects of these inequities, placing a particular focus on women of color and other disadvantaged groups.

Many public health organizations and professionals have adopted a health equity lens in their work with communities. However, the concepts and principles that make up health equity are not yet well understood, and the way health equity is being practiced looks very different across communities and practitioners. Through ARCHE, CGPS has been introducing innovative new approaches to collaboratively explore and refine health equity concepts, principles, and practices through Health Equity Design (HED) Labs.

ARCHE's HED Labs convene multidisciplinary groups of thought leaders and community stakeholders to build consensus and incubate the best ideas that promote equity in key policy and program areas ripe for intervention or innovation. The central focus of HED Labs is on changing policy, systems, practices and environments to affect the social determinants of health. The HED Lab process identifies best practices, recommendations and innovative solutions that can be deployed by policymakers and the field at large to advance change, as well as help drive research that addresses gaps in existing knowledge.

The vision for the Women's Wealth and Health Equity Summit emerged from our last HED Lab convening, "Mind the Gaps: Gender Pay Equity and the Implications for Health Equity," which brought together 25 experts and practitioners to explore how gender-based pay inequities impact the health and economic well-being of women, children and families. Through our discussions it became clear that we needed to expand our analytical lens and dialogue to include the wealth gap to better inform our understanding of the systemic nature of health and economic inequities.

To that end, 40 practitioners, experts, and community leaders convened at a HED Lab Strategy Session earlier this week to further discuss and analyze the landscape of wealth and health equity from the perspectives of key stakeholders and develop a slate of recommendations for consideration.

Through the Women's Wealth and Health Equity Summit, the HED Lab is engaging a larger group of experts, thought leaders, and community stakeholders than any previous HED Lab convening to enrich our research and problem-solving process. Your participation in the

online community and survey process leading up to the Summit has helped us hone in on key policy and program areas for intervention. Recommendations emerging from the HED Lab process will be unveiled on Wednesday morning to Summit participants. You'll have the opportunity to see how your contributions were distilled by HED Lab experts and respond to the recommendations that emerge. You'll be asked to give your feedback in group discussions, contribute questions, and provide additional feedback online. Following the Summit, the ARCHE team will use this feedback to refine our recommendations and insights before releasing a report that frames and shares results from the Lab for others in the field.

Ultimately, this summit seeks to build a shared language, framework, and policy agenda to address women's pay and wealth inequities through a health equity lens. By expanding understanding of the impact of economic inequities on the health and wellbeing of children, families and communities, we can build more effective strategies, partnerships and policies that promote health and financial security. We also hope that you will leave with actionable ideas about how you can infuse these efforts into your own work.

Thank you for taking part in this important work.

Sincerely,



Maya Rockeymoore, PhD
President and CEO
Center for Global Policy Solutions

AGENDA

Cherry Blossom Room, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, 201 Waterfront St., Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

2:00 - 3:00 pm	Registration
3:00 - 3:20 pm	Opening Remarks and Premiere of “Why Does the Gender Wealth Gap Matter for Health?” Video Maya Rockeymoore , PhD, President & CEO, Center for Global Policy Solutions
3:20 - 4:30 pm	Health Equity: Understanding the Social Determinants <p>Across the country, in urban and rural communities, far too many individuals and families are grappling with poverty, a lack of jobs and affordable housing, discrimination, and other factors that lead to poor health. The key to achieving health equity lies in practices, policy, systems and environmental changes that address the social determinants of health. Public health practitioners, researchers, and advocates will discuss solutions to improve these determinants and catalyze health equity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy Lubin, PhD, MPH, Director, Allies for Reaching Community Health Equity, Center for Global Policy Solutions (moderator) • Sade Adeeyo, MA, Research Associate II, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center, Urban Institute • Rear Admiral Susan J. Blumenthal, MD, MPA, Former U.S. Assistant Surgeon General • Marjorie Innocent, PhD, Senior Director of Health Programs, NAACP • Renske Lynde, MPP, Co-founder & Managing Director, Food System 6 Accelerator
4:30 - 6:00 pm	Break
6:00 - 8:00 pm	Keynote Address and Formal Dinner Leana Wen , MD, MSc, Public Health Commissioner, City of Baltimore

AGENDA

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

9:00 - 9:15 am	Opening Remarks Maya Rockeymoore , PhD, President & CEO, Center for Global Policy Solutions
9:20 - 10:30 am	Building Stability for Women Who Work <p>Leveling the playing field in the workplace can improve the health and economic stability of women and their families. Successful efforts to address interconnected factors like occupational segregation, job and income insecurity, and unstable or inflexible workplace conditions have relied on organizing and advocacy to support employees. Experts in labor relations and advocacy discuss workplace policies and conditions that generate health and wealth inequities and solutions to close gaps and advance equity for women, their families and communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cat Goughnour, MSc, Senior Program Manager, Racial Wealth Divide Initiative, Prosperity Now (moderator) • Ursula Mead, MA, CEO and Founder, InHerSight • Paolo Narciso, PhD, EdD, Director, Income Security, AARP Foundation • Shaunna Thomas, President and Co-founder, Ultraviolet
10:30 - 11:15 am	Keynote Address Julianne Malveaux , PhD, Labor Economist, Author, and Commentator
11:15 - 12:00 pm	Community Solutions Presentations <p>Participants from the Health Equity Design Lab Strategy Session will present recommendations on new and emerging approaches to advancing a women's wealth and health equity agenda.</p>
12:00 - 12:45 pm	Networking Lunch
12:45 - 1:45 pm	Breakouts: Solution-Based Discussions and Q&A Session <p>Participants can join breakout groups to discuss select promising solutions based on Community Solutions Presentations.</p>
1:45 - 2:00 pm	Break

AGENDA

Wednesday, July 19, 2017 - continued

2:00 - 3:00 pm

Equity: The Business Imperative

Industry leaders have a critical role to play in addressing inequities among workers. Representation of women in leadership and board positions is a driver of equal pay, friendly workplace policies, and breaking down occupational segregation. Business leaders discuss the necessary changes in systems, policies, and practices that can spur pay, wealth, and health equity.

- **Liz Maxwell**, Product Manager, SOCAP 365, MissionHub (moderator)
- **Jamillah Hoy-Rosas**, MPH, RD, CDE, Director of Health Coaching & Clinical Partnerships, City Health Works
- **David Levine**, Co-founder, President & CEO, American Sustainable Business Council
- **Teófilo Reyes**, Research Director, Restaurant Opportunities Centers United

3:00 - 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 - 4:15 pm

Thinking Intersectionally and Across Silos

Current approaches to solving the gaps in pay, wealth, and health equity can be strengthened by reaching across sectors, disciplines and interest groups to launch winning coalitions and advocacy efforts. Thinking intersectionally requires us to recognize the interconnectedness of systems and how they create diverse experiences as race, class, gender, and other categories of identity interact. This panel features community advocates and leaders who are working to build power intersectionally by breaking down silos that often prevent collaboration and collective action.

- **Regina Davis Moss**, Associate Executive Director, PhD, MPH, MCHES, American Public Health Association (moderator)
- **Sylvia Castillo**, Deputy Director, The Praxis Project
- **Miriam Rollin**, JD, Former Vice President and COO, Council for a Strong America
- **Tenya Steele**, Director of Environmental Health, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

4:15 - 4:45 pm

Reflections and Closing Remarks

Judy Lubin, PhD, Director, Allies for Reaching Community Health Equity, Center for Global Policy Solutions

KEYNOTE SPEAKER | DAY ONE

LEANA WEN, MD, MSc, Public Health Commissioner, City of Baltimore



Dr. Leana Wen is the commissioner of health for the City of Baltimore. An emergency physician and patient and community advocate, she leads the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD), the oldest health department in the United States, formed in 1793. BCHD is an agency with a \$130 million annual budget and 1,000 employees committed to improving well-being and combating disparities through education, policy/advocacy, and direct service delivery. BCHD's wide-ranging responsibilities include maternal and child health, youth wellness, school health, senior services, animal control, restaurant inspections, emergency preparedness, STI/HIV treatment, and acute and chronic disease prevention.

Facing an unprecedented number of deaths from opioid overdose, Dr. Wen issued a blanket prescription for the opioid antidote, naloxone, to all 620,000 residents of the city. Since 2015, this program has saved more than 530 lives. In March 2016, Dr. Wen was invited by the White House to speak on a panel with President Obama about Baltimore's efforts to address addiction as a public health crisis.

Under her leadership, the Baltimore City Health Department leads the country in health innovations including B'More for Healthy Babies, a collective impact strategy resulting in a 38 percent reduction in infant mortality in just 7 years; Vision for Baltimore, an initiative to obtain glasses for every child who needs them; Safe Streets, a program to engage citizens and hospitals in treating gun violence as a contagious disease; and Healthy Baltimore 2020, which enlists all sectors to achieve the ambitious goal of cutting disparities in half in 10 years.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER | DAY TWO

JULIANNE MALVEAUX, PhD, Labor Economist, Author, and Commentator



Dr. Julianne Malveaux has long been recognized for her progressive and insightful observations. She is a labor economist, noted author, and colorful commentator. Dr. Malveaux has been described by Dr. Cornel West as “the most iconoclastic public intellectual in the country.” Her contributions to the public dialogue on issues such as race, culture, gender, and their economic impacts are shaping public opinion in 21st century America.

Dr. Malveaux’s popular writing has appeared in USA Today, Black Issues in Higher Education, Ms., Essence, and The Progressive. Her weekly columns appeared for more than a decade (1990–2003) in newspapers across the country including the Los Angeles Times, Charlotte Observer, New Orleans Tribune, Detroit Free Press, and San Francisco Examiner. She has hosted television and radio programs and appeared widely as a commentator on networks including CNN, BET, PBS, NBC, ABC, Fox News, MSNBC, CNBC, C-SPAN and others.

Dr. Malveaux has been a contributor to academic life since receiving her PhD in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1980. She has been on the faculty or visiting faculty of the New School for Social Research, San Francisco State University, UC Berkeley, Notre Dame de Namur University, Michigan State University, and Howard University. She holds honorary degrees from Sojourner Douglas College (Baltimore, Maryland), Marygrove College (Detroit, Michigan), University of the District of Columbia, and Benedict College (Columbia, South Carolina). She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in economics from Boston College.

PANELISTS

SADE ADEEYO, MA, Research Associate II, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center, Urban Institute



Sade Adeeyo is research associate in the Urban Institute's Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center whose research focuses primarily on neighborhood and youth development and social determinants of health, as well as building and evaluating community-based interventions. Her areas of interest include housing and food security, supportive employment, and sexual and reproductive health. As part of a sexual health and safety community-based participatory research project, she has secured community buy-in and co-developed a curriculum-based youth program that confronts sexual and dating violence, high rates of HIV and STIs, as well as unintended pregnancy in a socially isolated neighborhood using trauma-informed and strength-based approaches. Prior to joining the Urban Institute, Ms. Adeeyo

advocated for best practices in community health and wellness to reduce gender and race-based health disparities. She has a maternal health background as a perinatal community health worker serving young, high-risk moms living on low incomes. She holds a BA in comparative women's studies with a minor in public health from Spelman College and an MA in public policy with a concentration in women's studies from the The George Washington University.

PANELISTS

REAR ADMIRAL SUSAN J. BLUMENTHAL, MD, MPA, Former U.S. Assistant Surgeon General



Rear Admiral Susan J. Blumenthal, MD, MPA served for more than two decades as a top Federal government health official in the Administrations of four U.S. Presidents where her work focused on a broad range of public health and science issues facing the Nation and world. She served as U.S. Assistant Surgeon General, the country's first Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health, Director of the Office on Women's Health, and as Senior Global Health Advisor in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). She is an internationally recognized medical expert and leader who has been a major force in bringing important public health issues including women's health, global health, disease, obesity, and violence prevention,

and mental illness to increased scientific and public attention, helping to place them at the top of our nation's health care agenda. Dr. Blumenthal was decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal of the U.S. Public Health Service, its highest honor, "for distinguished and pioneering leadership, groundbreaking contributions and dedicated public service that has improved the health of women, our Nation, and the world."

Dr. Blumenthal is currently a Senior Fellow in Health Policy at the New America Foundation where she is focused on a broad range of issues including health reform implementation, obesity, food insecurity, women's health, and global health. Additionally, Dr. Blumenthal serves as Senior Policy and Medical Advisor to amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research and is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Georgetown and Tufts School of Medicine. From 2006-2011, she served as the Director of the Health and Medicine Program at the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress (CSPC) where she co-chaired the Center's Commission on Future Directions in Health Care.

SYLVIA CASTILLO, Deputy Director, Praxis Project



Sylvia Castillo is deputy director at The Praxis Project. She is responsible for leading the organization's teams to deliver program supports to Praxis' constituents. Ms. Castillo works closely with the executive director to support thought leadership around emerging health equity practice areas. Formerly district director for U.S. Representative Karen Bass, Ms. Castillo has combined her passion for grassroots organizing and policy to specialize in public policy analysis, nonprofit strategic planning, and leadership development for social justice.

PANELISTS

REGINA DAVIS MOSS, Associate Executive Director, PhD, MPH, MCHES, American Public Health Association



Regina Davis Moss is the associate executive director of public health and practice for the American Public Health Association. With over 15 years of experience managing national health promotion and disease prevention initiatives, she oversees the Center for Public Health Policy, Center for Professional Development, Public Health Systems and Partnerships, and Center for School Health and Education. Dr. Davis Moss had worked to address issues such as reproductive health, healthy aging, obesity prevention, healthy policy, and sustained capacity in public health and continues to push for a healthier community with her work.

CAT GOUGHNOUR, MSc, Senior Program Manager, Racial Wealth Divide Initiative, Prosperity Now



Cat Goughnour is a senior program manager for the Racial Wealth Divide Initiative at Prosperity Now. In this role, she works to bridge best practices in program implementation to policy and research solutions, with the goal of decreasing income and wealth disparities in communities of color. Ms. Goughnour's professional involvement includes research consultant for PolicyLink (2014); Multnomah County community health worker (2013); equity and racial justice facilitator trained through Office of Equity and Human Rights Equity Training and Dialogue Program, and Resolutions NW/ Uniting to Understand Racism (2012 and 2013); lead consultant at RADIX Consulting Group, LLC (2014); Urban League/Metro Equity Baseline consultant; and published researcher. Ms. Goughnour holds an MSc in

sociology: race, ethnicity and post-colonial studies from the London School of Economics, and in political science from the University of London (2009); and a BA in liberal arts: social and political philosophy from Portland State University (2008).

PANELISTS

JAMILLAH HOY-ROSAS, MPH, RD, CDE, Director of Health Coaching & Clinical Partnerships, City Health Works



Jamillah Hoy-Rosas is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator who has worked in the fields of nutrition and public health for more than 12 years. Ms. Hoy-Rosas specializes in health coaching, adult education, motivational interviewing, care coordination, and medical nutrition therapy for diabetes, obesity, and heart disease. In her role as director of health coaching & clinical partnerships at City Health Works, she is responsible for overall program design and evaluation. She has oversight in the hiring, training and supervision of coaching staff who provide self-management strategies and motivational coaching to adults living with chronic illnesses. She manages clinic partnerships for the organization, including special projects and

grants, and serves as the primary contact for the care teams at partnering health systems, pharmacies and clinics. Ms. Hoy-Rosas is active in social justice and volunteer work for underrepresented and vulnerable populations. Ms. Hoy-Rosas received her BA in the biological basis of behavior from the University of Pennsylvania, and completed her RD and master's degree in public health nutrition at New York University.

MARJORIE INNOCENT, PhD, Senior Director of Health Programs, NAACP



Dr. Innocent leads the development and management of the NAACP's policy and programmatic agenda to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes for African Americans and other communities of color in alignment with organizational strategy. Dr. Innocent is responsible for establishing the NAACP health department as a resource and standing expert to advance the NAACP's policy agenda around health issues. She collaborates with internal and external colleagues to advance public discourse about the intersection of health and other social issues impacting populations of color, including education, community development, and criminal justice.

PANELISTS

RENSKE LYNDE, MPP, Co-Founder & Managing Director, Food System 6 Accelerator



Renske Lynde has worked in the nonprofit sector on food, agriculture, and nutrition policy and issues for nearly 20 years. Her work has included grassroots education and community organizing, strategic campaign development, quantitative policy analysis, and legislative advocacy. She began her career in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at the Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy, working on behalf of small-scale sustainable agriculture producers and went on to build direct markets for Pennsylvania farmers in the Philadelphia marketplace. Ms. Lynde subsequently directed advocacy and research for the San Francisco Food Bank, working primarily on cross-sector partnerships to improve the federal food stamp and school lunch programs. She holds BA degrees from Boston University in political science and psychology and a master's degree in public policy from UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy.

DAVID LEVINE, Co-founder, President & CEO, American Sustainable Business Council



David Levine is the co-founder and chief executive officer of the American Sustainable Business Council. He has worked as a social entrepreneur for more than 30 years, focusing on the development of whole systems solutions for a more sustainable society through building strategic partnerships and broad stakeholders initiatives. Previously, he was the founding director of continuing education and public programs at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. From 1984 to 1997, Mr. Levine was founder and executive director of the Learning Alliance, an independent popular education organization.

PANELISTS

JUDY LUBIN, PhD, Director, Allies for Reaching Community Health Equity (ARCHE)



Dr. Judy Lubin is director of Allies for Reaching Community Health Equity at the Center for Global Policy Solutions. She is also a researcher and adjunct professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Howard University. As principal of Public Square Communications, Dr. Lubin has directed research, evaluation, and communication efforts for nonprofit and public-sector organizations including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health, American Lung Association, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Healthy Schools Network, Collaborative for Education Organizing, Leadership for Healthy Communities, American Medical Group Foundation, Joint Center for Political

and Economic Studies, National Urban League, and GreatSchools. She is also the co-founder of Sociologists for Justice, an independent collective of more than 2,000 experts, researchers, and distinguished scholars organized in response to police violence against African Americans.

LIZ MAXWELL, Product Manager, SOCAP 365, MissionHub



Liz Maxwell is a writer, producer, researcher, and hopelessly optimistic human being. Born into a family of jazz musicians in New Orleans, Elizabeth has a double undergraduate degree from Louisiana Scholars' College in Humanities/Social Thought and Theatre/Dance. She currently runs the year-round national event series for SOCAP, the industry's leading conference on the social capital markets and impact investing. She is also the Chief Dot Connector with the people-powered, non-governmental U.S. Department of Arts and Culture, current board member and former Artistic Director of the international Art Monastery Project, and an active part of the Impact Hub network for social innovators. Based in Philadelphia, Liz can most frequently

be found somewhere between progressive convenings, daytime dance parties, and scheming about the strategic movements of our era.

PANELISTS

URSULA MEAD, MA, CEO and Founder, InHerSight



Ursula Mead is the founder and CEO of InHerSight, a full-time working mom, and a believer in the power of data and transparency to drive real change. Ms. Mead created InHerSight to collect and amplify the voices of women in the workplace through anonymous company reviews. Women have rated the female-friendliness of more than 40,000 companies in the United States. Prior to starting InHerSight, Ms. Mead was the head of product at The Motley Fool, a financial services and media company. She earned a BA in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MA in international relations and affairs from The George Washington University.

PAOLO NARCISO, PhD, EdD, Director, Income Security, AARP Foundation



Dr. Paolo Narciso is the Director of Income Security at the AARP Foundation. In his role, he leads the Foundation's efforts in developing and managing services and programs that support income security and income equity for vulnerable 50+ Americans. In addition to his work at AARP, Dr. Narciso is a professor at Jack Welch Management Institute as well as the founder of Meraki SV Partners (acquired by CloudHealth Asia). He is also the founder of 531 Networks, one of the leading speech analytics platforms used in government and business-to-consumer applications (acquired by Ignite-Tec Ventures). He received his doctorate from Creighton University on the topic of impact entrepreneurship and leadership.

PANELISTS

MAYA ROCKEYMOORE, PhD, President and CEO, Center for Global Policy Solutions



Dr. Maya Rockeymoore is president and CEO of Global Policy Solutions, LLC, a Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm, and president of the Center for Global Policy Solutions, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to driving society toward inclusion. She provides vision, direction, and guidance to the Allies for Reaching Community Health Equity initiative.

Dr. Rockeymoore has previously served as the vice president of research and programs at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF), senior resident scholar for Health and Income Security at the National Urban League, chief of staff to Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY), professional staff on the House Ways and Means Committee, and as an adjunct professor at American University's Women and Politics Institute among other positions. Dr. Rockeymoore holds a BA in political science and mass communications from Prairie View A&M University and an MA and PhD in political science, with an emphasis in public policy, from Purdue University.

SHAUNNA THOMAS, President and Co-founder, Ultraviolet



Shaunna Thomas is co-founder and co-executive director of UltraViolet. Ms. Thomas has had a 10-year career in progressive organizing, building progressive infrastructure projects, and winning critical policy fights at the national level. Before founding UltraViolet, Ms. Thomas was the executive director of the P Street Project, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit dedicated to organizing progressive members of Congress and connecting federal legislative strategy with online grassroots mobilization efforts.

TEÓFILO REYES, Research Director, Restaurant Opportunities Center United



Teófilo Reyes is the research director for the Restaurant Opportunities Center United, which advocates for restaurant workers and pushes for tougher industry standards. ROC-United seeks to improve wages and working conditions for the nation's low-wage restaurant workers. Before coming to ROC, Mr. Reyes served as a community organizer with the United Farm Workers, co-director and staff writer at Labor Notes, and director of TiE Global in North America. He helped found the National Coalition for Dignity and Amnesty. Mr. Reyes' first job was at McDonald's. He lives in Philadelphia with his family.

PANELISTS

MIRIAM ROLLIN, JD, Former Vice President and COO, Council for a Strong America



Miriam Rollin, JD, most recently served for eight years as vice president and chief operating officer of the Council for a Strong America, a national nonprofit that unites five organizations of powerful leaders preparing the next generation to be well-educated, physically fit, and prepared for productive lives. Ms. Rollin was with Council for a Strong America for more than 16 years, and oversaw the work of the teams handling Federal Policy, State Policy (including 10 state offices), research, communications, digital/design, and information technology. She also played an important role in fundraising for the organization, and in work with the board of directors. Ms. Rollin recently helped to launch the Fight Crime: Invest in Kids police training

initiative, that has developed and is piloting a training system for in-service police officers that covers the topics of adolescents' brain development, unconscious bias, and cultural differences, as well as specific operationalized approaches that police can use to facilitate de-escalation in police interactions with young people. Ms. Rollin joined Council for a Strong America as federal policy director in April 2001 and left in May of this year. Ms. Rollin has been seeking improvements in policies affecting children, youth, and families for 35 years. A lawyer, she has practiced both as an attorney/guardian ad litem for abused and neglected children, and as an assistant district attorney, prosecuting juvenile, family violence, and child abuse cases. She received her bachelor's degree from Yale University and her law degree from Catholic University of America.

TENYA STEELE, Director of Environmental Health, WE ACT for Environmental Justice



Tenya Steele has a unique and diverse background in environmental science, research, advocacy, and public health education. As the director of environmental health for WE ACT for Environmental Justice, she continues those efforts through partnerships with various academic research institutions like Columbia University, and fosters many partnerships with health professionals throughout New York City and abroad. Ms. Steele has a master's degree in environmental engineering and technology and is currently completing a doctorate in public health at Downstate Medical Center. She recognizes that her background as an African American female from an underserved community in Brooklyn is vital to addressing the

injustices with environmental exposures and the poor health outcomes faced by communities of color.