

2022 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies

Engaging Community in Emergency Response: Perspectives from Marin County

Randi Lachter, Senior Program Coordinator

Randi joined Marin County Public Health in March 2021 to serve as a liaison between community-based organizations and the County's COVID response teams. She then shifted to managing the Community Response Team initiative focused on building and strengthening the public health infrastructure in collaboration with community organizations to address public health threats and emergencies. Prior to joining the county, she spent 19 years working to reduce commercial tobacco use. She served as the Director of Tobacco Treatment programs for ClearWay Minnesota where she oversaw the state of Minnesota's statewide cessation programs. She also contributed to program evaluation and policy initiatives.

Jahmeer Reynolds, Executive Director & Founder

Jahmeer has always had a strong desire to serve his community, and worked his way through college as an advocate for adults and children with mild to severe developmental, physical and mental disabilities. While pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Jahmeer became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., as well as an accomplished playwright. In 2004, Jahmeer wrote and directed a stage play about the AIDS epidemic, and toured around the country. This led to Jahmeer becoming a board member of African Advocates Against Aids in North Carolina. In 2011, Jahmeer became an educator in the Wake County Public School system.

In 2012, Jahmeer and his family relocated to Abu Dhabi. Since then, Jahmeer has earned his Masters in Education and in 2015 he launched the first youth mentoring organization in the United Arab Emirates for young Black men, called "I Promise." For this program, he was awarded the Blue Sapphire Award.

As MCCT's ED and founder, Jahmeer is the architect of the Frederick Leon Marcus Youth Academy, and the School to Life Mentor Project (coming in 2022). His vision for these programs, in part, is best explained through his TedTalk, entitled "Reimagining Policing for the Good of All." Jahmeer was recently selected for the next cohort of Echoing Green Fellows— a highly selective fellowship of global leaders advancing racial equity from all angles.

For his work as MCCT's ED, Jahmeer received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for Outstanding Innovation from the U.S. Congress, a Certification of Recognition from both the California State Legislature and the Marin County Board of Supervisors, was selected as a Kron 4 Hero, and given the "Excellence in Innovation" award from the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership.

Seamus Tomkins, Program Manager

Seamus Tomkins is one of the Co-Leads for the West Marin Community Response Team and a Program Manager at West Marin Community Services. Seamus has been active in public health and community development projects both nationally and internationally. This includes HIV/AIDS and Malaria education and outreach in Zambia and managing youth and school programs for the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence in Juneau, Alaska. After switching careers to a hiking and kayaking guide in the outdoor industry, Seamus has come back full circle to focus on community work in the realm of public health and disaster response in West Marin. In his spare time, you can still find him on a trail or in a kayak exploring the outdoors.