



2023 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies

Bridging Disease Surveillance Gaps at the LHD Level Through Partnerships with Regional Health Information Organizations

Ramy Hussein, Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency

Ramy Hussein joined the Santa Cruz Health Services Agency in July 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic. During his time with Santa Cruz County, Ramy served as the Disease Control Branch Director with responsibility for the agency's Outbreak Investigation, Infection Prevention, Case Coordination, Epidemiology and Intelligence, Testing, and Public Partnerships. He now oversees the newly formed Population Health Branch for the Health Services Agency which consists of the Epidemiology, Health Informatics, and Vital Statistics Programs. Prior to joining Santa Cruz County, Ramy worked as a Communicable Disease Intervention Specialist, Health Educator in STD/HIV Programs, Epidemiologist, MCAH Program Coordinator, HIPAA and Healthcare Compliance Analyst, and Sr. Quality Management Specialist at various local government entities. He holds a B.S. from the University of California in Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior and a Master of Public Health from Touro University in Global Health.

Brian Dillon, Intrepid Ascent

Brian is a senior consultant with Intrepid Ascent and serves in the Technology Strategy Group. He specializes in systems architecture design and health data interoperability. Several of these projects seek to establish or expand community information exchanges (CIE), which have core goals of improving health outcomes, equity, and access to health care needs. Brian helps ensure health IT vendors provide software solutions relevant and efficient to community organizations with little resources and knowledge of implementation projects.

Previously, Brian served as a general manager in the U.S. Clinical Division of Eurofins Scientific, a global life science company. He managed and led the company's largest clinical lab in California and third-largest in the United States. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, he and his team rapidly built a COVID-19 PCR facility that quickly became one of the largest commercial testing facilities in the state with result delivery directly to a client's cell phone in less than 24 hours.

He has been a previous speaker at Civitas along with a contributor to California Health Care Foundation on Digital Identity for the California Data Exchange.

Dan Chavez, Santa Cruz County Health Information Organization

Daniel J. Chavez joined the Santa Cruz Health Information Organization (SCHIO) as Executive Director March 2022 with more than 35 years of health care information technology (HIT) experience. He has an extensive track record of cultivating startups, business development and product marketing in the HIT space. Previously, he served as the founding executive director of San Diego Health Connect, the health information exchange, HIE, in San Diego and Imperial Counties. While ED, Chavez served on the 211 San Diego, Community Information Exchange San Diego, Strategic HIE Collaborative (SHIEC) and Destination Care San Diego board of directors. He currently sits on the Board of the California Association of HIES (CAHIE). He holds a BA from San Jose State University and an MBA from Stanford University.

Troy Tournat, Santa Cruz County Public Health

Troy Z. Tournat, MPH (she/her), is an Epidemiologist for the Santa Cruz County Department of Public Health, Population Health Unit. Like many local health jurisdiction epidemiologists, for the past 3 years Troy's role centered around the COVID emergency response, and in January 2022 she became the lead epidemiologist for COVID-related data. In addition, she serves as the county's HIV surveillance coordinator and works alongside multiple teams to improve data collection quality and better connect people living with HIV to care. Troy believes that health is a human right. That if people who were most vulnerable were prioritized, we all would benefit. And that local policies, programs, and practices have an incredible (positive or negative) impact on the community they serve. She is therefore passionate about empowering the health service agency, community partners, & the public with good data that has the power to bring positive changes to the health of the community. Troy received her MPH in Epidemiology at the University of Michigan.