



## 2023 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies

### Living Rebrand, Rebuild and Reconnect, Strategies for Improving Staff Engagement and Reducing Vacancy Rates

#### **Colleen Rodriguez, MSW, MPH, Deputy Director**

Colleen Rodriguez brings 25+ years of experience in Public Health and currently serves as the Deputy Director of Calaveras Public Health. Her journey encompasses direct service, community organizing, advocacy, strategic planning, and qualitative research. She holds Bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Women's Studies (University of NH), a Master of Social Welfare degree (UC Berkeley), and a Master of Public Health degree (San José State). Colleen also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in South America as a rural health educator. She is passionate about serving rural communities and believes dogs make the world a better place.

#### **Haley Graham, MPH, Health Education Program Manager**

Haley Graham is a Health Education Program Manager for Calaveras County Public Health. She earned her Masters in Public Health with a focus in Healthcare Management and Policy from San Diego State University in 2020. Haley grew up in a rural town in the Central Valley of California which motivated her to join a public health workforce that is dedicated to improving health outcomes in rural communities. Aside from her professional life, she enjoys reading, gardening, and spending time with family and pets.

#### **Eldamaira Chavez, Community Engagement Coordinator**

Eldamaira Chavez was born and raised in Calaveras County, a small rural community, where she witnessed the struggles that many families faced in accessing healthcare services. This experience inspired her to create a positive impact in her community by working for Calaveras County Public Health and advocating for the needs of families. Eldamaira's position within public health is a Community Engagement Coordinator and she is passionate about bridging the gap between community resources and the communities she serves. She constantly seeks new and innovative ways to engage with rural communities and promote public health.

#### **Justin Barnes, Analyst**

Justin Barnes is a Department Analyst for Calaveras County Public Health with 2.5 years of experience in the field. With a background in exercise science and nutrition education, he is currently pursuing an MPH. Previously, Justin worked in the CalFresh program, promoting healthy eating, physical activity, and gardening within the community. As a department analyst and chairperson of the Workplace Wellness Advisory Committee, his goal is to enhance the division's wellness culture with a tailored approach, fostering team cohesion, and rebuilding the Public Health workforce equitably and sustainably.