



## 2023 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies

### Community Health Workers and Promotoras: Public Health's Natural Allies

#### **KellyAnne Rodriguez, Chief, Regional Community Coordinator**

KellyAnne Rodriguez (she/her) has been with the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency for seven years. She serves as the East Region Chief of Regional Community Coordinator in the Office of Equitable Communities within the Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities. In this role, she leads regional community efforts to facilitate collective action to advance health and social equity, economic inclusion, and poverty reduction.

KellyAnne leads the coordination and implementation efforts of the Community Health Worker program for The San Diego County East Region. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she co-led County's COVID-19 Education Sector, supporting early education, K-12 schools, and colleges and universities. Before her time at the County of San Diego, KellyAnne worked in teen substance abuse prevention.

KellyAnne is a San Diego native and has dedicated her career to serving San Diego Communities. She holds a B.S. in Public Health from San Diego State University and an M.P.H. from National University.

#### **Selfa Saucedo, Ventura County Public Health**

Selfa Saucedo is the Division Manager and Director of Health Education for Ventura County Public Health. She oversees the Community Health Division which includes Tobacco Policy, Tobacco Education and Prevention, Nutrition Education and Physical Activity, Oral Health, Diabetes Prevention, Health Care for All, Asthma Education, Cultivating Health in Agriculture as well as the Office for Health Equity.

She believes that medical care alone cannot adequately improve health overall or reduce health disparities, we have to address where and how people live. She has led successful countywide efforts to address policy, systems, and environmental changes, including countywide initiatives that have resulted in the adoption by the Board of Supervisors of a Health in All Policies framework, a Comprehensive Smoke-free County-wide ordinance, Racism is a Public Health Crisis resolution and the development of an Office for Health Equity for the County's Public Health Department. Selfa believes that the choices people make are determined by the choices people have available to them.

Selfa received her MPH degree from UCLA and has spent her public health career educating individuals and communities about how to build healthy communities and make healthy choices. She is a member of the Board for several organizations where she hopes to influence the environments and systems in which people live, learn and play. Selfa was raised in Ventura County, California and has lived most of her life in Ventura. She is blessed with a large, extended family including 3 children and 3 grandchildren. She loves her job and her children/grandchildren and when she is not working or volunteering, enjoys spending every spare moment with her family.

### **Maricela de Rivera, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services**

Maricela Renteria de Rivera, CLEC, uses she/ella pronouns and is the Multicultural Health Equity Coordinator with the Long Beach Health Department. During her almost 12 years as a stay-at-home mamá, Maricela focused her volunteer efforts on equity and inclusion for queer and BIPOC parents and families. These activities included founding and running Long Beach Breastfeeds, serving as a City Commissioner with Long Beach Transit and the Equity & Human Relations Commission, on the steering committee to establish Long Beach's Women & Girls Commission, on LBUSD's Equity Leadership Team, LA Metro's Public Safety Advisory Committee, served elders with The Heart of Ida, and on the nonprofit boards of Leadership Long Beach, BreastfeedLA, and APLA Health. A native of Boyle Heights, Maricela was a foster youth who lived throughout Southern California before making Long Beach her home over 20 years ago. With associate and bachelor's degrees from Mount Saint Mary's University, Maricela is a proud queer neuro-divergent Latina, raising two young children in north Long Beach, with her husband of 17 years.

### **Kimberly Saruwatari, Riverside University Health System - Public Health**

Kim Saruwatari is the Director for Riverside University Health System – Public Health, otherwise known as the Riverside County Public Health Department.

Ms. Saruwatari began her career in Public Health over 25 years ago and has worked in Immunizations, HIV/AIDS, STD Control, Community Epidemiology and Outbreak Response, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response. In 2015, Ms. Saruwatari was named the first ever director for the County of Riverside Emergency Management Department and was an integral contributor in developing the new emergency management model in Riverside County. In 2017, Kim was appointed the Director of Public Health for Riverside County.

She has led the Public Health Department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Monkeypox outbreak, including the development of enhanced partnerships with community and faith-based organizations, the education sector and businesses throughout Riverside County. Ms Saruwatari has a passion for social justice work, including working with communities to ensure access to resources in an equitable way that fosters healthier communities. Kim is a member of the Executive Committee for the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC).

She holds a B.A. in molecular and cell biology, and a M.P.H. in infectious diseases, both from the University of California, Berkeley.