



2025 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies

Integrating Climate Change into Community Health Assessments and Improvement Plans: A New Resource for Local Health Jurisdictions

Savannah North, MPH, Director of Operations & Climate Initiatives, Public Health Alliance

Ms. North brings over a decade of experience advancing public health practice and health equity through facilitation of collaborative approaches with local health jurisdictions, community-based organizations and other key stakeholders. She leads the Alliance's climate change and health portfolio, including convening cross-programmatic LHJ teams to embed climate equity into public health programs and functions; developing tools and templates for LHJs to adapt for internal use; and facilitating inter-agency coordination and collaboration for climate action. She recently completed the development of robust guidance for LHJs and other stakeholders to integrate climate considerations into community health assessments and improvement plans. She also leads the Alliance's, Farmers' Food as Medicine initiative, which aims to bridge Managed Care Plans community supports portfolio and funding with local food systems, to enhance access to fresh local produce, and support local, climate-smart agriculture and farmers. Prior to joining the Public Health Alliance, she led cross-sector collaborations with government agencies, community organizations, and environmental justice groups to develop climate resilience initiatives in vulnerable communities across the country.

Elizabeth Rhoades, PhD, Climate Change Local Assistance Manager, California Department of Public Health

Ms. Rhoades is currently the Climate Change Local Assistance Manager, within the Climate Change and Health Equity Branch at the California Department of Public Health. She leads the Local Assistance Unit to provide climate and health equity technical assistance to local health jurisdictions (LHJs) and Tribes. The LAU equips LHJs and Tribes to serve their own populations and forge partnerships that increase overall capacity to mitigate and build resilience to climate change. Prior to joining CDPH, she was the Director of the Climate Change and Sustainability Program in the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. She worked across sectors to provide subject matter expertise on the health impacts of climate change, promote policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide guidance on climate preparedness to local government and community partners, and build workforce capacity to address climate change. Elizabeth received her doctorate in public health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.