



2025 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies

Public Health on Purpose: How Braided Funding and Strategic Partnerships Power Local Innovation

Stephanie Tanksley, HHS Deputy Director of Public Health and Prevention

Stephanie Tanksley serves as the Deputy Director of Public Health for Inyo County, with nearly a decade of experience in Health & Human Services, she brings a comprehensive understanding of public health systems, community engagement, and cross-sector collaboration. Working in one of California's most rural and geographically isolated counties, Stephanie leads efforts to address complex public health challenges through creative, community-driven strategies. She is a strong advocate for braiding funding streams to support upstream prevention and ensure services are accessible and sustainable. Stephanie serves on several local leadership bodies, including First 5 Commission, the Child Abuse Prevention Council, and the Community Health Improvement Plan Steering Committee. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science and an MBA from Pepperdine University.

Eliana Argueta, MHI, Regional Program Manager

Eliana Argueta is a health equity strategist with over a decade of experience leading initiatives that integrate healthcare, social services, and community systems. In her role as Regional Program Manager at Health Net, she focuses on advancing cross-sector collaboration, strengthening provider engagement, and leveraging data to drive equitable outcomes across diverse populations. With a background in health informatics and human services, Eliana has led efforts to build responsive networks, align programs with regulatory and community needs, and close access gaps in historically underserved communities. She brings a systems-level perspective, and a collaborative approach rooted in equity, sustainability, and community empowerment.

Katelyne Lent, First 5 Program Manager

Katelyne Lent serves as the Director of First 5 Inyo County, where she leads programs and partnerships focused on early childhood development, family support, and community wellness. With over eight years of experience in prevention work—including more than three years as First 5 Director—she previously served as a Domestic Violence Program Coordinator with a local tribal organization. Katelyne launched Inyo County's first Home Visiting Program and continues to champion upstream prevention efforts that center families and community voice. Deeply rooted in the Inyo County community, she is committed to fostering equitable access to services for families with young children, particularly in rural and underserved areas. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in human development—focused on infancy and early childhood (ages 0–3)—from the University of Nevada, Reno. Katelyne is passionate about cross-sector collaboration, cultural responsiveness, and building sustainable systems that uplift families from the earliest stages of life.

Vanessa Bigham, Prevention Program Manager

Vanessa Bigham is the Prevention Program Manager for Inyo County Health & Human Services. She holds a bachelor's degree in human development and currently oversees youth substance use prevention efforts, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, the local oral health program, and the Inyo County Tobacco Program. With experience in both public and private school systems, Vanessa is deeply invested in the well-being of youth and is passionate about building a healthier future for the next generation. One of her key strengths is uniting programs and passionate people—bringing teams together to create positive change and spark new, community-driven solutions that meet the evolving needs of those we serve.