

2025 CHEAC Annual Meeting Workshop Session Biographies

Reimagining Public Health with Courage, Creativity, and Community

Kula Koenig, Chief Program Officer

Kula Koenig is an organizer at heart—ever since junior high, when she collected donations in her apartment complex for UNICEF. She currently serves as Chief Program Officer at Public Health Advocates, where she leads statewide policy initiatives addressing racial injustice through a public health lens, including *Defend California*, a bold campaign to protect public health from political attacks.

Kula is also the founder of the Social Justice PolitiCorps, which mobilizes everyday Sacramentans for social justice. Her background includes roles as Senior Director of Impact at United Way, Government Relations Director at the American Heart Association, and District Director for former Assemblymember Roger Dickinson. She has led political campaigns, secured funding for water access, and passed public health legislation—all with a commitment to equity over charity.

She is a former chapter president of Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) Sacramento, and a proud graduate of UCLA (B.A.) and George Washington University (MBA). Kula loves deadlifts, big earrings, and leads with her heart.

Hannah Seriki, MPH, Director of Strategic Development & Equity Impact

Hannah Seriki (she/her) serves as the Director of Strategic Development & Equity Impact at the Public Health Alliance. She is a systems change strategist with extensive experience in community-based practice, equity-focused organizational change processes, and challenging systemic causes of inequities. In her role, Hannah provides leadership to drive transformative systems change across the organization's program, policy, and partnership initiatives. She also leads efforts to develop organizational strategy that strengthens the Alliance's sustainability and advances health equity throughout Southern California. Prior to her current position, Hannah worked in maternal child health, focusing on reproductive justice through addressing upstream barriers including structural racism, systemic oppression, and institutional bias.

Hannah also serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of Urban Public Health at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, her alma mater. Her approach to public health is grounded in the understanding that transformative solutions emerge when power differentials are identified and addressed through authentic relationship and trust building. Hannah remains committed to creating systems where people can be seen, heard, and ultimately loved better tomorrow than they are today.

Weiyu Zhang, MPH, Policy Director

As a public health practitioner, Weiyu is committed to leveraging the vision, values, analysis and tools of “public health” to solve social problems. For the last decade, she has mostly worked in non-profit organizations and focused on areas such as policy analyses and advocacy, coalition building, community health education and health care navigation, and community-based crisis intervention, all aiming to build power with Black, Indigenous, immigrant and other communities of color in California. At CPEHN, Weiyu leads the newly formed “public health pod” and tackles issues such as racial equity in governance, equitable local budgeting, and leadership development for grassroots community organizations. She often draws upon her research and analytical skills from previously working as a scientist in biomedical research and biopharmaceutical production in Asia. Weiyu has an MPH from the

University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Biology and Biotechnology from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Weiyu grew up in Sichuan, China – a region known for pandas and spicy food. As an immigrant and femme of color, she practices public health from a place of continued learning/unlearning, community care, and community self-determination. In her free time, she loves being in nature with her pup Kiwi (a sweet & sassy 14 pound terrier mix born in 2021).