



EQUITY ROLES IN CALIFORNIA'S LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: WHAT EQUITY LOOKS LIKE WHEN OUR COUNTRY IS AT A CROSSROADS

CHEAC 2025
October 1, 2025

Your heart space breakout room

Welcome to your heart space breakout room.

Please take a few minutes to connect.

Consider sharing how you're arriving in this space today,
or what you hope to get out of today's meeting on a
personal level.

There's no set agenda, just a time to connect.



Session Objectives

TO PROVIDE AN
UPDATE ON THE
EQUITY OFFICER
MOVEMENT IN
CALIFORNIA

TO EXPLORE HOW
EQUITY OFFICES CAN BE
MAXIMIZED FOR
HEALTH EQUITY IN THIS
MOMENT

TO SHARE PRACTICE
FRAMEWORKS AND
STRATEGIES TO
MAINTAIN MOMENT
FOR HEALTH JUSTICE

BARHII In This Moment

- **Hold the Vision: A Government That Serves All and Repairs the Past**
Champion a future where government works for everyone, with health equity at its Center.
- **Close the Hope Gap: Build the Future Now Through Belonging and Bold Practice**
Turn hope into action by showcasing what's possible today—through government success and building community development projects rooted in belonging.



3 Bodies of Work That Implement The BARHII Health Equity Framework



1. Bay Area Efforts
2. National Action Lab
3. Cultural Belonging
Community Development
Coalitions and Funds

Audience Poll



Panelist



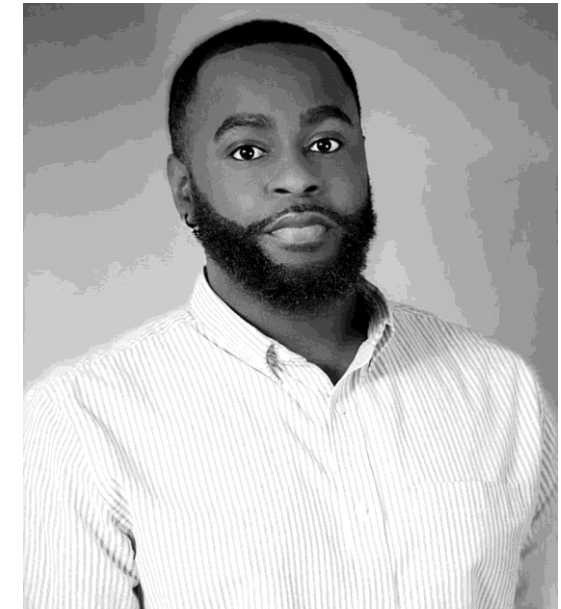
Melissa Jones,
Panel Moderator,
*Executive Director,
BARHII (Bay Area
Regional Health
Inequities Initiative)*



Sefanit Mekuria
Director of Public
Health,
Deputy Health Officer.
Contra Costa



Judis Santos
Assistant Director - Evidence
+ Impact, Metropolitan
Transportation
Commission/Association of
Bay Area Governments



Jeremy Scruggs
Health Equity Officer
Department of Health and
Human Services
City of Long Beach

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS



Hot off the Press!

Launching in 2026

Email info@barhii.org to get on the mailing list!

✿ The National Jurisdictional Community of Practice

✿ The National Government Reparations Community of Practice

- Join a new **Community of Practice** for government and community leaders working to advance reparations and build systems of repair.
- Grounded in field-wide knowledge and lived expertise
- Anchored by a new **guidebook** in development with journalists from *Black Enterprise* and Reparationists from across the country
- Designed to connect practical tools for government staff, legal guidance, and network of support for action
- **What You Can Do Now**
 - Join a local campaign in your region. Attend information sessions, show your support at hearings, visit with your local elected officials.

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Sign up to Stay Connected

Email info@barhii.org to join the
Reparations Community of Practice
Interest List

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Thank
you!