

Culture of Health Program Webinar Series

“Messaging to Advance Health Equity in Public Policy”

Speaker Biographies



Lubna Ahmed is the Director of Environmental Health at WE ACT for Environmental Justice. She is an environmental health enthusiast with a strong dedication to environmental justice. She holds a BA in Psychology from Miami University and a MPH in Environmental Health Science & Policy from The George Washington University. Lubna served as an Environmental Education Peace Corps Volunteer in Nicaragua where she developed fluency in Spanish. She is passionate about working at the community level to build capacity and advance the sustainable well-being of underserved populations.



John Dreyzehner, M.D., M.P.H., FACOEM, is a physician, leader, and executive with 30 years of practice in the public and private sectors including federal, state and local leadership roles. Most recently he was a Tennessee cabinet official appointed by the Governor where he led the Tennessee Department of Health from 2011-2019, immediately following a decade of service as a local health official in multiple southwest Virginia counties in central Appalachia. Presently he is engaged in the private sector to improve opportunities for optimal health for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Jennifer Messenger leads the public health practice at Metropolitan Group, a national social impact communication firm. She works with nonprofits, public agencies and foundations across the country on tobacco prevention, reproductive well-being, cross-sector leadership to build a culture of health and other issues. All of her work includes a strong focus on multicultural engagement and collaboration with many different communities to improve health equity.



Benjamin Schmauss is the Government Relations Director in Nevada for the American Heart Association (AHA) where he has worked on public policy to improve the health of all Nevadan's. He has helped to secure over 35 million dollars in appropriations for walking and biking projects in Southern Nevada, increase the cigarette tax statewide by \$1, require CPR in Schools before HS graduation and pass the first statewide school wellness policy that restricts junk food marketing. Prior to joining the AHA, he worked for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation facilitating the implementation of the Healthy Schools Program across Nevada and New Mexico.

Earlier in his career he taught health and physical education in the Clark County School District.