



Leveraging Data to Drive Effective Heat Protection Policies

Facilitators & Speakers



Anthony Nicome, Climate Communities Network Strategic Partner

Anthony Nicome is the Inaugural Environmental Justice Fellow at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) - Center for Health Justice (CHJ) where he is co-developing the Centers environmental justice portfolio. Anthony comes to the Climate Communities Network with a wealth of experience in community engagement and is passionate about working with communities to help address challenging environmental justice issues. His first exposure to health equity research was gained as a Project Imhotep intern and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health (CUPS) Scholar at Morehouse College and the University of North Carolina Center for Health Equity Research (CHER), where he helped develop evaluation measures for the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars program. He then completed an internship with the Diversity Summer Internship Program at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Anthony has since served the public for over five years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as scientist and convenor focused on community engagement, environmental justice, water quality, and climate change. In addition, he's worked as a community outreach assistant at Moncrief Cancer Institute, and as a research assistant at the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, the University at Buffalo Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab, and the Baltimore Food Policy Initiative. Anthony received his M.H.S. in geography from Texas Christian University and his M.H.S. degree in environmental health, with graduate certificates in climate and health, food systems and environmental and occupational health from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health – Department of Environmental Health & Engineering. In 2021, he was inducted into the Delta Omega Public Health Honorary Society, Alpha Chapter. Anthony is a freelance writer for Civil Eats where he writes about public health issues at the intersection of public transportation infrastructure and food systems and is continuing his studies in public health as a graduate student at Yale University – School of Public Health.



Laprisha Berry Daniels, Climate Communities Network Member

Laprisha Berry Daniels is a Public Health Social Worker with a track record of leading and growing organizational and community capacity while helping turn collective vision into lasting impact. Laprisha holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Michigan State University, as well as Master's degrees in Social Work and Public Health from the University of Michigan.

She has over 20 years of public health experience, with 15 of those being in progressively responsible leadership roles, where she has been responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating efforts focused on improving health and wellbeing.



Sheetal Rao, MD, Climate Communities Network Member

Dr. Sheetal Rao is a primary care internal medicine physician and an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of IL at Chicago. She has completed fellowships in both Climate and Health Policy through the University of Colorado and Climate and Health Community Organizing through Harvard's Center for Health Equity Education and Advocacy. As an adjunct faculty at UIC's School of Public Health, Dr. Rao teaches a novel course on

Climate and Health. She is also a Co-Investigator in the Community Outreach Core at UIC's NIH Center for Climate and Health Equity. Outside of the clinic and classroom, Dr. Rao collaborates with local communities to improve health and support biodiversity by increasing tree canopy and native greenspaces around the Chicago region. This work is done through her non-profit organization Nordson Green Earth—a member of the National Academy of Medicine's Climate Communities Network. Dr. Rao is a member of the American Hospital Association's Community Health and Environment Technical Expert Panel and is on the Board of IL Clinicians for Climate Action. She is a 2024-25 Oped Public Voices Fellow and 2023 recipient of the American Public Health Association's Excellence in Climate Leadership Award.



Carianne Lee, Director Climate Policy and Appropriations, Pioneer Public Affairs

Carianne Lee is the Director of Climate Policy and Appropriations at Pioneer Public Affairs, as well as the Executive Director of Build America Policy Council, a network of state government and communications experts creating change in national fights through state engagement. At Pioneer, Carianne develops strategies for her clients to best engage with the federal government and elevate important climate policies necessary to decarbonize our economy and protect communities from the worst impacts of climate change. Prior to Pioneer, Carianne was a senior legislative staffer for Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12). In her role, Carianne worked extensively to advance the Congresswoman's work in climate resilience and environmental justice, with a particular focus on extreme heat, leading several efforts to urge the Administration and Congressional leadership to better develop heat emergency preparedness. Carianne is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and Johns Hopkins University. She is also a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer from Burkina Faso, West Africa. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, Carianne now lives in Washington, DC.



Shaneah Taylor, Acting Director of Programs, National Academy of Medicine

Shaneah Taylor (she/her) is a health equity champion with extensive experience building the capacity of organizations and the communities they serve through the expert and equitable lens offered by authentic Community Based Participatory Research, advocacy, and place-based grant-making. She is experienced in designing and innovating intergenerational programs that bridge the gap between academic rigor and community wisdom. Shaneah's focus area integrates her passion and knowledge around the spectrum of evidence that contributes to authentic public health practice, health education, youth advocacy, podcasting, spoken word artistry, and equity advocacy to work with caregivers and parents, building their capacity as they lead initiatives for policy change related to child health and well-being. At Northwestern Hospital's OB/GYN Department, Shaneah was the Center Manager for the Research and Education arm of a tri-institutional National Cancer Institute grant. She was also a project coordinator for an NIH-funded breast and cervical



cancer R24 grant. In addition to being a public health expert, Shaneah is an educator, spoken word artist, and community innovator, both in the US and Malawi. Strengthening partnerships with stakeholders, teaching and emphasizing the historical contributions to existing inequities fuel her work. Most recently, Shaneah was a Senior Program Manager at the American Medical Association. Here, she led over 20 health equity action teams across the organization and supervised a team of program managers to embed health equity into their work. Prior to the AMA Shaneah directed a portfolio of programs in New York City that involved youth, community members and organizations, local politicians, and city agencies to improve health with and for populations made marginalized, with limited access to health services. Shaneah currently combines her public health acumen and diverse career experiences by strategically supporting the programming office as the Acting Director of Programs at the National Academy of Medicine.



John Balbus, MD, MPH, Principal, Climate Care Consulting, LLC

John Balbus is the Principal of Climate Care Consulting, LLC and former HHS Deputy Assistant Secretary for Climate Change and Health Equity. Trained as a physician in both Internal and Occupational and Environmental Medicine, he has devoted his professional career to understanding and addressing the health implications of climate change. He established and directed the HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity after serving twelve years as Senior Advisor for Public Health at the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences. Prior positions include serving as Chief Health Scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund, and as Associate Professor and founding Acting Chairman of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. He received his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from Harvard University, his MD degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and his MPH from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2021.



Walker Wieland, Chief, Extreme Heat Ranking System Development Section, California Environmental Protection Agency

Walker Wieland is Chief of the Extreme Heat Ranking System Development Section within the California Environmental Protection Agency. Walker is leading the development of CalHeatScore, an extreme heat ranking and early warning system for California.



Cari Olson, Assistant Commissioner of Environmental Surveillance and Policy, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Cari Olson is the assistant commissioner of Environmental Surveillance and Policy at the NYC Health Department, where she's worked for nearly 20 years. Cari's work has always focused on the effective use of health data to inform public health practice. She currently leads a team of scientists, lawyers and public health professionals focused on environmental health and justice through surveillance, policy and programs – including climate health and equity. Most recently, her work and team have been focused on the intersection of heat, energy policy, health and housing. Cari has an MPH from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and a BS in journalism from Northwestern University.



Cheryl Holder, MD, FACP, Founding Co-Chair & Executive Director, Florida Clinicians for Climate Action, Former President of the Florida State Medical Association

Dr. Cheryl Holder is the Interim Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, and Community Initiatives for the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (HWCOC) at Florida International University (FIU). Holder has dedicated her career to helping underserved and vulnerable populations. Holder is the president of the Florida State Medical Association, representing African American physicians in the United States. She is the founding Co-Chair of Florida Clinicians for Climate Action, which engages health professionals to advocate for equitable climate solutions. She recently gave a TEDMED talk about the link between climate change, health and poverty. A board-



certified internist and HIV specialist, Holder, is a veteran of the battle against AIDS. FIU has honored Holder with the 2016 FIU Medallion Cal Kovens Distinguished Community Service Award, the 2017 Faculty Convocation Award in Service and the 2019 Tow Humanism in Medicine Award.



Lily Kelly, Grants and Contracts Analyst, La Clínica de La Raza, Inc., Climate Communities Network Member

Lily Kelly (they/them) has nearly 20 years of experience as a non-profit program manager and administrator. They currently provide analytical and administrative support to La Clínica de La Raza, which provides affordable, high-quality, culturally appropriate health care for underserved populations in the East Bay area of California. Since 2021 Lily has served as founding co-chair of La

Clinica's Climate Change Working Group, and currently also co-chairs the California Primary Care Association's Climate Change and Health Working Group.

Originally hailing from a small town in northern Florida, Lily earned BAs in Environmental Studies and in Economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. In 2010 they earned an MPA from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. They haven't owned a car since 2006.



Jessica Hinshaw, Director of Air, Water, and Chemical Exposures, Community Health Division, National Association of Community Health Centers

Jess Hinshaw is the Director of Air, Water, and Chemical Exposures in the Community Health Division at the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC). In her role, she works alongside community health centers to address health impacts from air, water, and chemical exposures, and oversees

initiatives that strengthen preparedness and promote learning on how these issues affect patients and communities. Jess is also leading efforts to support health centers in installing solar microgrids to ensure reliable backup power during outages. Her career has focused on community-based participatory research in public health and addressing factors that influence health at the community level. Before coming to NACHC, Jess held various positions with AMOS Health and Hope in Managua, Nicaragua focused on community-based primary health care. She also served at the New Mexico Department of



Health in response to COVID-19. Jess received her Master of Public Health from Vanderbilt University and is also currently a doctoral candidate at the George Washington University.



Marysel Pagán Santana, DrPH, MS, Director of Environmental and Occupational Health, Migrant Clinicians Network

Marysel Pagán Santana, DrPH, MS, serves as Director of Environmental and Occupational Health of Migrant Clinicians Network in Puerto Rico, where she leads and coordinates MCN projects related to occupational health, disaster preparedness, and emergency response. She is also the organization's lead for the Caribbean Office. Dr. Pagán Santana provides technical assistance, training, and tool development for community health centers in Puerto Rico and the communities they serve to address disaster-related issues and health-related impacts. Additionally, she is the project director of a USDA-funded project to support resiliency among farmworkers in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. She also provides training related to occupational health and safety to different populations of workers in Puerto Rico. Dr. Pagán Santana has extensive experience providing training to vulnerable and high-risk worker populations and carrying out community projects. She also has over eight years of experience in the private sector as an industrial hygienist and continues to offer them her professional consulting in the development and implementation of training programs in occupational and environmental health, emergency preparedness, and business continuity planning. In recent years, Dr. Pagán Santana has focused on assisting the response to emerging infectious disease in educational institutions in Puerto Rico, as well as supporting the PR Department of Health's response by offering training to personnel responsible for monitoring schools and businesses to promote the health of students and essential personnel in Puerto Rico. Dr. Pagán Santana has a master's degree in industrial Hygiene and a Doctorate in Public Health with an emphasis on environmental health from the Medical Sciences Campus of the University of Puerto Rico.



**Grace Wickerson, Senior Manager, Climate and Environment,
Federation of American Scientists**

Grace Wickerson is the Senior Manager, Climate and Health on the Climate and Environment team at the Federation of American Scientists. Grace leads programmatic work to showcase how a changing climate impacts health outcomes and public health and healthcare systems, through emerging threats like extreme heat and wildfire smoke. Grace is committed to identifying policy solutions that secure access to a clean environment, while bringing down costs, bolstering the economy, and improving Americans' quality of life. Grace holds a Master's of Science in Materials Science and Engineering from Northwestern University and a BS in Materials Science and Nanoengineering from Rice University.