



IPHA 85TH ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE CONFERENCE

Together We Thrive

FEATURED SPEAKERS GUIDE

Pre-Conference Workshop Presenters

Crowne Plaza Springfield - Convention Center
Springfield, Illinois



SEPTEMBER 1-3 | 2026



Pre-Conference Workshops

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 2

Kick off the conference a day early with hands-on learning! Our pre-conference workshops are designed to dive deeper into the topics shaping public health today, giving you practical tools and strategies you can bring back to your community right away. With two sessions to choose from throughout the afternoon, there is something for everyone, whether you are a community health worker, seasoned public health professional, or student just getting started. Speakers are organized in chronological order by their scheduled presentation times.





Pre-Conference Workshops

Session ONE | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM



Shelly Ebbert

Illinois Public Health Association

Session Information

Title	Advanced Topics in Public Health Supervision: Addressing Challenging Conversations
Location	Plaza A

Biography

Shelly Ebbert is a seasoned public health and nonprofit leader with nearly 30 years of supervisory experience across state and local government, healthcare, and community-based organizations. She has held senior roles with Addus Home Care, Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, the Illinois Department on Aging, and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, leading large teams and expanding critical services for older adults and people living with HIV. A former President of the Illinois Public Health Association, Shelly holds a BA and MPH from the University of Michigan and retired in 2023 to focus on family and pursue her lifelong passion as an equestrian.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session ONE | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM



Tracey Smith, DNP, PHCNS-BC, MS

Illinois Public Health Association

Session Information

Title	From Outreach to Reimbursement: CHW Documentation for MCO Billing Success
Location	Plaza B

Biography

Tracey Smith is the Associate Executive Director for Public Health Practice at the Illinois Public Health Association and Director of the IPHA CHW Capacity Building Center. She holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice focused on health literacy and a master's degree in community health nursing with a minor in multicultural nursing.

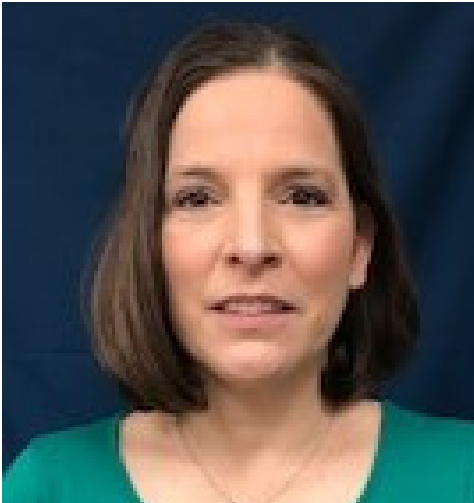
With more than 30 years of experience in healthcare, Tracey has served as a clinician at a Federally Qualified Health Center for over 22 years, an Associate Professor, a CHW for 12 years, and a CHW program developer for more than a decade. Her lived experience growing up in a rural Illinois community without health insurance deeply informs her commitment to closing gaps in care.

Tracey has led statewide initiatives integrating CHWs into healthcare, public health, education, and community-based systems, helping secure more than \$100 million in grant funding to advance the CHW profession in Illinois. She helped develop one of the first CHW training programs in downstate Illinois and has presented nationally on CHW training and sustainability. Since joining IPHA, she has led the CHW 101 program, training more than 1,200 CHWs, developed the IPHA CHW Capacity Building Center, and now leads the HelpGuideThrive Operations HUB.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session ONE | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM



Tonya Potts

Egyptian Health Department

Session Information

Title	From Outreach to Reimbursement: CHW Documentation for MCO Billing Success
Location	Plaza B

Biography

Tonya is the Director of Integrated Care for Adults (InCA) at the Egyptian Health Department, an HFS Transformation Collaborative. She has successfully led initiatives that improved patient care coordination and community health outcomes, showcasing her impact in these roles.

Tonya is married, has adult children, and is a lifelong member of the community she serves. Her clinical background as a licensed Registered Respiratory Therapist with over thirty years of experience in acute cardiopulmonary care, leadership, and project development reflects her deep commitment to her community.

Before joining the Egyptian Health Department, Tonya worked at Harrisburg Medical Center for 20 years, including 13 years as the Director of Respiratory Therapy, the Sleep Lab, and overseeing the Pulmonary Clinic. Her diverse career and strong partnerships have significantly contributed to the growth of the InCA HTC collaborative, demonstrating her professional dedication.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session ONE | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM



Payton Champley

Christian County Health Department

Session Information

Title	From Outreach to Reimbursement: CHW Documentation for MCO Billing Success
Location	Plaza B

Biography

Payton is the Mental Health Case Manager with the Christian County Health Department, where she has served for three years. She is also a Community Health Worker, a role she has held since 2025. Payton is passionate about connecting individuals and families to mental health resources, reducing barriers to care, and building strong community partnerships. Through her work, she focuses on mental health education, outreach, prevention, and creating accessible resources to support the health and well-being of her community.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session ONE | 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM



Krissy Roseberry, MPH

Illinois Public Health Association

Session Information

Title	Healthy Brains Start Here: Small Habits, Big Impact!
Location	Plaza C

Biography

Krissy Roseberry, MPH, serves as the Associate Executive Director for Training and Community Engagement at the Illinois Public Health Association, where she has been a dedicated team member since 2003. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Community Health and a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Illinois.

In her current role, Ms. Roseberry leads the management of key projects and strategic initiatives, guiding program development, implementation, quality improvement, and evaluation efforts. She plays a central role in fostering and sustaining partnerships with more than 80 community-based organizations, federally qualified health centers, and local health departments. These collaborations support grant-funded initiatives that deploy community health workers to address critical public health priorities, including chronic disease prevention, vaccination outreach, maternal and child health, injury prevention, health equity, and more.

Additionally, Ms. Roseberry oversees professional development efforts, including coordination of key training initiatives and the annual Public Health Workforce Conference.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session TWO | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Allie Boman

Boman Communications, LLC

Session Information

Title	Communication Skills for the Public Health Community Workforce
Location	Plaza A

Biography

Allie is a science editor, student of public health, and communications professional. Her team of specialists helps health organizations reach audiences effectively.

For the first 15 years of her working life, Allie led a community-based nonprofit. When she moved to Illinois 7 years ago, she began writing and editing research reports on public health. She expanded the business in 2023 to include design, strategy, social media, and websites. To support this work, she began a master's in public health and expects to cross the finish line this year!

As a volunteer, Allie participates in and leads community wellness efforts in her now-home town of Highwood, Illinois. She has four kids, a rowdy husband, and dog named Indy who tries to keep up.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session TWO | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Ranelle Brew, EdD, MS
Parasol Health Consulting

Session Information

Title	Foundations of Professional Excellence to Propel Your Public Health Career
Location	Plaza B

Biography

Dr. Ranelle Brew brings 25+ years of experience in higher education, public health practice, research, and training. Her expertise spans health education, promotion, and prevention, with a focus on designing, implementing, and evaluating public health programs. She has earned tenure as a full Professor, Department Chair, and Program Director, and led the launch of a startup Master of Public Health program.

Dr. Brew has authored instructor materials for F.A. Davis Publishing, a children's book, and over 100 papers and presentations. She holds a 2023 Fulbright Specialist designation and conducts ongoing research on centenarians across the five Blue Zones. Her community work has earned multiple Michigan Hometown Health Hero Awards and the 2020 SOPHE Clarence E. Pearson Award.

A global health advocate, she has led public health service-learning trips since 2008, with partnerships across Kenya, Ghana, China, the Philippines, South Africa, Greece, Costa Rica, and Italy. She has served as President of the Michigan Public Health Association and the Great Lakes Chapter of SOPHE, and remains active in APHA, SOPHE, and numerous health boards.

Dr. Brew holds doctoral and double Master's degrees from Columbia University, Teachers College.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session TWO | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Diana Yassanye, MS
Parasol Health Consulting

Session Information

Title	Foundations of Professional Excellence to Propel Your Public Health Career
Location	Plaza B

Biography

Diana Yassanye has practiced public health for 27 years, with deep expertise in organizational leadership, partnership coordination, and strategy. She excels at engaging partners across public health, academia, and healthcare, and is one of few specialists in public-private partnership conflicts of interest and ethics.

During her career at CDC, Diana contributed to major national and international emergency responses, including H1N1, Ebola, Zika, Hurricane Sandy, and COVID-19. Most notably, she helped build and ultimately led the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program — mobilizing 21 pharmacy groups and 41,000 pharmacies to deliver COVID vaccines within five miles of 90% of the U.S. population.

Her earlier work includes a decade in HIV prevention across the U.S., Turkey, France, and beyond, as well as STEM and health curriculum development at grassroots organizations and NGOs. She also pioneered social media and technology initiatives at CDC, including a microtasking pilot linking university students to CDC projects.

Diana holds a B.A. in Childhood Education from Cal State Northridge and an M.S. in Health Education from Columbia University Teachers College. Outside of work, she cheers on her teenage daughter at the softball field, cooks Moroccan and Middle Eastern specialties, tends her native pollinator garden, and enjoys bike rides with her husband.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session TWO | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Emma Troth, PhD

Illinois Department of Public Health

Session Information

Title	From Data to Impact: Advancing CMV Prevention, Surveillance, and Child Outcomes Through Public Health Action
Location	Plaza C

Biography

Dr. Emma Troth holds a doctoral degree in Infectious Diseases. She has worked in drug discovery, molecular epidemiology, and prognostic development. Currently, she is the special projects coordinator for the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes Reporting System (APORS). Current special project focus areas for the APORS program include congenital cytomegalovirus, neonatal abstinence syndrome, and stillbirth.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session TWO | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Ginger Mullin, AuD

Illinois Department of Public Health

Session Information

Title	From Data to Impact: Advancing CMV Prevention, Surveillance, and Child Outcomes Through Public Health Action
Location	Plaza C

Biography

Dr. Ginger Mullin holds a doctoral degree in Audiology. She has worked in pediatric audiology and the EHDI system since 1996 and became Illinois' EHDI coordinator in 2005. During that time, she has been the principal investigator for both the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grants/ cooperative agreements. She works to promote screening, diagnostic, intervention, family support and sustainable systems building for all children with atypical hearing.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session TWO | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Kathleen Jordan, MA

Illinois Department of Public Health

Session Information

Title	From Data to Impact: Advancing CMV Prevention, Surveillance, and Child Outcomes Through Public Health Action
Location	Plaza C

Biography

Kate Jordan, M.A., has a master's degree in audiology. She has worked in diagnostics, educational audiology, and as supervisor to graduate clinicians. Currently, she is a vision and hearing consultant for the State of Illinois Department of Public Health and works extensively with hospitals and audiologists for state reporting and diagnostic data documentation.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session TWO | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Debbie Bennett-Carrey, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC
Humana

Session Information

Title	Health Equity Think Tank: Health Advancement for Addressing Diverse Population Needs to Focus on the Whole Person
Location	Plaza D

Biography

Debbie Bennett Carey is a dual master's-prepared healthcare professional, holding a Master of Science in Nursing with a focus in Healthcare Administration, and board-certified through the ANCC as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

She brings clinical expertise in high-risk chronic disease management and palliative care, utilizing HEDIS quality measures and HCC coding. Debbie has multiple years of experience in surgical services, post-anesthesia care, intensive care, and emergency medicine. She is proficient in treating acute and chronic illnesses, seasonal viral and bacterial infections, and providing wellness prevention services, including Medicare Wellness exams.

With a strong focus on preventative medicine, Debbie is committed to delivering quality, holistic patient care. She encourages patient autonomy in healthcare decisions and is passionate about equipping each patient with the education, resources, and tools they need to make informed choices about their health.

Debbie is proficient in Quality Improvement methodologies and is a demonstrated leader in healthcare team development. She has a track record of driving patient care goals, delivering award-winning care, and championing healthcare system initiatives.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session TWO | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Celi Esquivel, MBA

Humana

Session Information

Title	Health Equity Think Tank: Health Advancement for Addressing Diverse Population Needs to Focus on the Whole Person
Location	Plaza D

Biography

Celi Esquivel brings 20+ years of experience in health insurance across population health management, marketing, finance, and strategic portfolio management. A recognized executive and Health Advancement Strategy Lead at Humana, she is dedicated to building health equity in diverse communities through innovative partnerships and interdisciplinary collaboration. She previously held roles at Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC/Blue Cross Blue Shield) and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care.

Celi holds an M.B.A. from DePaul University and a B.S. from Elmhurst University with a double major in health administration and economics. She has 13 years of adjunct teaching experience at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, DePaul University, and Robert Morris University, covering health administration, global health, leadership development, cultural competency, and organizational development.

Her volunteer and civic contributions include service with Make-A-Wish Illinois, the Framingham Town Hall, and board roles at multiple social service agencies. She is a past Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Metropolitan Leadership Institute. Her accolades include recognition from the National Hispanic Medical Association and a 2024 APEX Award from the Illinois Association of Medical Health Plans. She is widely regarded as a collaborative and purpose-driven leader.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session TWO | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Mike Mehta, DO, MBA

Humana

Session Information

Title	Health Equity Think Tank: Health Advancement for Addressing Diverse Population Needs to Focus on the Whole Person
Location	Plaza D

Biography

Dr. Mike Mehta is the Chief Psychiatrist for Humana, where he leads behavioral health clinical strategy and operations. He is a dual board-certified in child and adolescent & adult psychiatry. He completed fellowship at Northwestern University. He is currently based in Chicago.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session TWO | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Lakshmi Emory, M.D.

Humana

Session Information

Title	Health Equity Think Tank: Health Advancement for Addressing Diverse Population Needs to Focus on the Whole Person
Location	Plaza D

Biography

As the Regional Vice President of Health Services and Chief Medical Officer for Illinois Medicaid/Duals at Humana, Lakshmi leads the region's clinical engagement strategy, focusing on quality improvement, cost efficiency, and population health outcomes. By collaborating with providers and leveraging data-driven insights, her team strives to improve healthcare delivery and address critical health challenges in our community.

With over two decades of clinical and leadership experience, Lakshmi has dedicated her career to healthcare transformation and health equity. Her expertise as a board-certified family medicine physician, combined with her experience in managed care, supports her mission to improve care for under-resourced populations. Her work reflects a deep commitment to innovation and strategic collaboration to achieve impactful health outcomes.



Pre-Conference Workshops

Session TWO | 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM



Kevin Sloss, MHA, RMA (AMT), CHES
Humana

Session Information

Title	Health Equity Think Tank: Health Advancement for Addressing Diverse Population Needs to Focus on the Whole Person
Location	Plaza D

Biography

Kevin is a dedicated Population Health Leader with a focus on community engagement centered around disease prevention through health education and strategic maneuvers leveraging community relationships. Kevin has a knack for maintaining compliance and quality assurance. Kevin's ultimate goal is to support high-risk patients in reducing their risk of hospitalizations. Kevin looks to achieve this goal via patient empowerment and developing systems that value all care team member experiences.

Kevin has participated in a variety of Quality Improvement Initiatives addressing health disparities at various levels of community, population and public health. Value-based Care experience including knowledge of HEDIS, CPT/ICD coding, and CAHPS/HOS Patient Experience.



Contact Us!

For any questions about the presenters, please contact:

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