

Community Engagement Ambassador Institute:

Empowering Communities for Health Equity and Advocacy

Meet the Speakers and Panelists

Click a speaker's name to go to their biography page!

Devondia Anthony

Arkevious Armstrong

Kimberly Bayha

Isis Bey

Kateesha Blount

Lauren Cook

Patrick Crockett

Gwendolyn Devins

Kayla Earley

Michael Eby

Quaneka Falls

Ra'Shawn Flournoy

Mamie Floyd

Judy Ford

Jada Jackson

Kendra Jason

Jaramial Lee

Chantel Lowery

Irini McCarthy

Amore' McCullough

Michelle Partridge-Doer

Kimberly Scott

Ricardo Ivan Torres

Aubrielle Wallace

Brittany Weatherall

Charlene Whitaker-Brown

Devondia Anthony

Eligibility Specialist, Mecklenburg County Department of Community Resources | Panelist

DeVondia R. Anthony, a dynamic and resilient woman from North Carolina, a sought-after motivational speaker, television personality, writer, publisher, and master life coach, Anthony's journey is a testament to her strength and perseverance. In 2017, Anthony graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Johnson C. Smith University. Anthony received her Master's of Communications from Queens University of Charlotte in 2020.



Anthony's passion for empowering women led her to incorporate The Rasberrirose Foundation Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to positively impacting the minds, bodies, and souls of African American women and girls struggling with low self-esteem. Anthony has written several inspiring books, including "Put it on Paper," "My Last First Kiss," "Changed Woman...Unchained," "The Awakening of Dee," and "Depression. Uncovered While Covered in Anxiety."

Anthony, a passionate advocate for helping others, has dedicated her life to empowering others through her unwavering commitment to personal growth. After overcoming the challenges of HIV and AIDS, she recognized the potential of her knowledge and skills to make a positive impact on the lives of many. In 2012, she became a certified master life coach. In addition to her coaching endeavors, Anthony expanded her professional horizons by becoming a wedding officiant, providing a unique and personalized service to couples looking for a meaningful and memorable ceremony.

Anthony was a finalist in the 2010 Ford Steve Harvey Hoodie Awards in the "Best Community Leader" category, and her inspiring story has been featured on Robin Meade's Breakthrough Women on HLN. Anthony has shared her testimony and conducted workshops for various churches, sororities, local and syndicated radio stations.

As a devoted wife, mother of two daughters and four granddaughters, Anthony's life is full of love and joy. Anthony is employed with Mecklenburg County, living her best life and basking in the blessings of God.

Arkevious Armstrong

Community Activist | Panelist

Arkevious Armstrong is a Community Activist, International Speaker, Author, Transformative Coach, and Youth Advocate. Overcoming significant challenges, including dropping out of high school, legal troubles, and two incarcerations, he transformed his life by earning his GED and completing vocational programs while in prison. Upon his release in 2006, he continued his education, earning an associate degree in Business Administration.



In 2013, Arkevious founded Step Up To Leadership Mentoring Program, which provides social development programs for young men in inner-city schools and communities, fostering confidence and leadership skills. His mission emphasizes mental health, education, and helping individuals make healthier life choices.

Through his inspiring speaking engagements and workshops, Arkevious uses his personal story of transformation to connect deeply with his audience, motivating them to overcome adversity and realize their full potential. He remains committed to strengthening communities and empowering youth to create brighter futures.

Kimberly Bayha, NCNTT

Tobacco Prevention & Control Supervisor, Mecklenburg County Public Health | Session Facilitator

Kim Bayha serves as the Tobacco Prevention & Control Program Supervisor at Mecklenburg County Public Health in the Office of Chronic Disease Policy & Prevention. In this role she leads comprehensive tobacco prevention and control initiatives across Mecklenburg County and oversees regional tobacco control efforts in the 11 counties of NC Health Region 4.

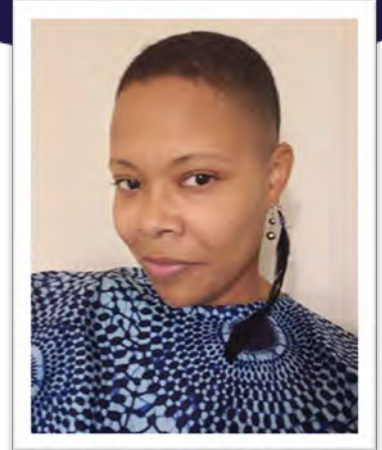


With a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from UNC-Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health and over 35 years of experience in public health, Kim has worked across community, governmental, business and school settings. She specializes in tobacco prevention and control focusing on policy, systems, and environmental changes with a heart for health equity. A nationally certified tobacco treatment specialist, she has extensive experience as a speaker and facilitator delivering workshops, webinars, classes, mentoring sessions and trainings at local, state and federal levels. Her deep knowledge of North Carolina tobacco control history and policy initiatives informs her work in advocacy, coalition building and education. Kim is also passionate about health communications, having led a number of tobacco awareness and cessation community campaigns.

Outside of work, she lives south of Charlotte with her husband Tom and their four cats. They raised two sons, now young adults. In her free time, Kim enjoys traveling, kayaking and other outdoor adventures, reading, gardening, creative projects and spending time with family.

Isis Bey, LCSW, CCTP II, TTS

Founder and Owner, IAB Consulting LLC, Harmony Health Therapeutic Services | Adjunct Professor | Panelist



Momma Bey is the founder and owner of IAB Consulting LLC, Harmony Health Therapeutic Services and an adjunct professor at multiple universities. She is a national trainer and consultant with over 28 years of experience serving children and families. Ms. Bey, a nationally certified Trauma therapist, is also an NC Supervisor for Clinical Social Workers. She is currently a 2nd year PhD Student at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in Public Health Sciences, focusing on behavioral health. Her research interests focus on racial health disparities and culturally responsive intervention development. She is the Chair of Clearing the Smoke, Mecklenburg Tobacco Free Coalition and a Research Resilience Training Program Fellow.

Ms. Bey completed her graduate education at Charlotte, University of North Carolina. She is Nationally Certified as an Advanced-Level Complex Trauma Clinician, Gang Specialist, Triple P Parent Provider, and TF-CBT National Trainer, Supervisor, and consultant. She is also a Tobacco Treatment Specialist [TTS].

Her clinical training and consulting/practice experience includes Trauma [inc Racial, Transgenerational], Advocacy, African Centered Approaches, Ethics, Holistic Healing Practices, Somatic Experiencing, Energy Healing, Implicit Bias, Systematic Disparities, Anti-Racism, Group Therapy, Child Welfare, Parent Education, Criminal Justice, Gang Intervention, Human Trafficking, Domestic and Teen Dating Violence.

Momma Bey has program development experience in behavioral health, mental health private practice, healing circles, wellness events, policies and procedures, organizational change, and human resource development.

Kateesha Blount, DHSc, MPH, CPH

**Health Program Manager, Mecklenburg County
Public Health | Session Facilitator**



Dr. Kateesha Blount is a graduate of the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology. She received her graduate training and a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from Florida A&M University. She holds a Doctor of Health Science with a concentration in Global Health from Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. Blount has over 19 years of experience in public health and has served at Mecklenburg County Public Health (MCPH) for the past 10 years. She is currently the COVID-19 Health Disparities Program Manager responsible for implementing strategies to address disparities related to the disease. She previously served as the agency's Training Supervisor and was also a lead for the initial COVID-19 response.

Dr. Blount's experience includes work in public health surveillance, infectious diseases, and community-based research activities. Prior to MCPH, she worked for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) as the State Tuberculosis (TB) Health Educator and held epidemiology roles within the State of Florida.

During her free time, she enjoys volunteering with her church's health ministry, watching the latest movies, and spending time with her husband and young son.

Lauren Cook

Management Analyst, Mecklenburg County Public Health | Session Facilitator

Lauren Cook is a Management Analyst under the Public Health Informatics Program at Mecklenburg County Health Department. With a data science and business analytics background, Lauren's sharp analytical skills and attention to detail translate well with collaborating across the department to create innovative data solutions, dynamic Power BI dashboards, and detailed analytical reports. She also plays a pivotal role in co-leading the data governance program at Mecklenburg County Public Health alongside her esteemed colleague, Jonathan.

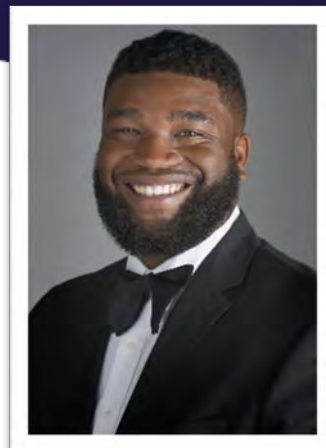


At her essence, Lauren is driven by a passion for data and a commitment to enlightening others about the significance and transformative potential of their data assets.

Patrick Crockett

Community Engagement Coordinator and Advocate | Panelist

Patrick Crockett is a dedicated community engagement professional at Atrium Health, where he focuses on fostering relationships, supporting local initiatives, and addressing social determinants of health in Anson County and the Central market. With a passion for community impact, Patrick works to develop programs that enhance food security, workforce development, and access to care.



A proud graduate of Queens University's Class of 2020, Patrick has a strong background in public health, advocacy, and corporate responsibility. His leadership extends beyond his professional role, as he actively participates in volunteer work, serving on various boards and initiatives aimed at improving community well-being.

Outside of work, Patrick is an avid golfer and a passionate Duke basketball fan. Whether attending games or hitting the course, he enjoys building connections and embracing new experiences. Patrick is also involved in creative projects, including content creation and storytelling, where he explores themes of equity and opportunity. With a commitment to making a lasting impact, Patrick continues to drive meaningful change through collaboration, innovation, and community-driven solutions.

Gwendolyn Devins, MPH, CCHW

Community Engagement Manager, Mecklenburg County Public Health | Institute Creator

Gwendolyn Devins, a native of Silver Spring, Maryland, serves as the Community Engagement Manager in the Office of Health Equity for Mecklenburg County Public Health. She brings over two decades of experience in health education and public service. Throughout her career, Gwendolyn has been a champion for equity, supporting community efforts by fostering cross-sector partnerships, engaging and uplifting diverse communities, and implementing strategic and innovative activities that directly address health disparities and the advancement of health equity through the power of authentic, meaningful and impactful community engagement.



Gwendolyn's path to public health leadership was not a straight or easy one. She will be the first to tell you that she was not the smartest student in the room. In fact, she often struggled in school—wrestling with self-doubt, academic challenges, and moments where giving up felt like the easiest option. There were times when the weight of it all made her and family question if she belonged in spaces she aspired to. But what she lacked, she made up for in resilience. Through faith, hard work, and an unshakable desire to serve her community, Gwen pushed forward, step by step. Her journey is proof that perseverance, not perfection, is what creates leaders who truly understand the people they serve.

With heart and hustle, Gwendolyn has a vibrant spark for public health. Whether she is championing faith-based wellness, supporting grassroots organizations, or mentoring the next wave of health leaders, she brings infectious energy and unwavering purpose to every space she enters. Her commitment and gift for connection have made her a trusted voice and advocate both within the department and throughout the greater communities of Charlotte.

She holds a Master of Public Health in Community Health from Indiana University at Bloomington and a Bachelor of Science in Health Education and Community Health from Johnson C. Smith University. Her academic journey laid a strong foundation for her most recent professional accomplishments—Dr. Phyllis Worthy Dawkins Health and Human Performance Alumni Excellence Award and The Heart of Charlotte Public Health Leader of the Year Award. Moreover, her commitment to professional excellence is reflected in her active memberships with several leading organizations, including the National Association of County & City Health Officials, American Public Health Association, North Carolina Public Health Association, Society for Public Health Education, and North Carolina Society for Public Health Education. Additionally, she is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

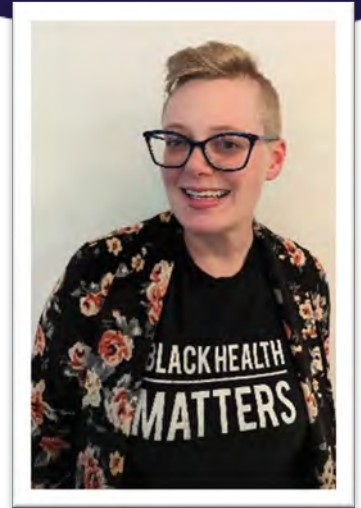
Beyond Gwendolyn's formal responsibilities, she is deeply devoted to lifelong learning. She continues to seek opportunities to grow her knowledge, sharpen her leadership, and push the boundaries of innovation in public health. She stands ten toes down in her belief that impactful public health requires continual growth and collaboration. In her spare time, she finds joy in celebrating life with her loved ones and taking annual trips to the mountains for well-earned rest and rejuvenation. Her journey is a testament to what is possible when passion meets purpose and when service is led with both head and heart.

Kayla Earley, MPH, PMP

Public Health Professional | Session Facilitator

Kayla Earley (she/her) is a Charlotte-native with a passion for public health.

She has worked in HIV since 2014. She attended Lenoir-Rhyne University for both her Bachelor of Science in Community Health and Master of Public Health. In her current role, she uses her skills and resources to connect community partners to each other and provide education around HIV, social drivers of health, and more.



Michael Eby, MHA

Director of Clinical Services, Mecklenburg County Public Health | Session Facilitator

Michael Eby, MHA has worked in management roles for more than 20 years, with more than half of that time in healthcare settings. As General Manager for a multidisciplinary practice across Tampa Bay, he oversaw operations in primary care, pharmacy, chiropractic, physical therapy, and acupuncture.

He also served as Director of Operations for a local practice offering primary care, urgent care, and occupational medicine. Beyond his work in healthcare, he has also managed large call center programs, production teams for a national publication, and served six years as a high school Spanish teacher in Pinellas County, Florida.

During his free time, Michael and his husband enjoy spending time with loved ones, traveling, gardening, and exploring the Charlotte food scene.



Quaneka Falls, MHA

Health Program Supervisor, Mecklenburg County Public Health | Session Facilitator

Quaneka Falls is a dedicated advocate for individuals and families navigating grief, with a passion for empowering communities through education, mentorship, and community support. She is the founder of Connecting the Gap, a nonprofit organization that provides guidance and resources to youth and young adults grieving the loss of a parent or guardian.

A graduate of UNC Wilmington, Quaneka holds a Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education and a master's in healthcare administration. With 14 years of experience working for Mecklenburg County, she has developed a strong foundation in community engagement, violence prevention, and public health initiatives. Currently, she serves in the Office of Violence Prevention as the Health Program Supervisor, where she continues her mission of fostering safer, healthier communities.

Quaneka has also played an instrumental role in leading initiatives such as the Peacekeepers Academy, where she helped lead 24 organizations in their efforts to build stronger, more resilient communities. Additionally, she has been a key figure in the Carolina Violence Prevention Collaborative, collaborating with various stakeholders to address community violence in Mecklenburg County.

Beyond her professional commitments, Quaneka is a devoted mother of two toddlers, balancing her work with the joys and challenges of motherhood. Her unwavering dedication to service, advocacy, and healing continues to make a lasting impact on the lives of those she serves.



Ra'Shawn Flournoy, D.Min

Executive Director, Quality Comprehensive Health Center | Panelist

Ra'Shawn D. Flournoy, D.MIN is a proud native of Spartanburg, SC, is a seasoned professional with over 18 years of experience in the non-profit. His innovative approach has significantly impacted numerous businesses and non-profit organizations across the United States during his tenure as a Consultant.

Driven by a deep-rooted desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others, Dr. Flournoy has successfully established eleven social enterprises as a dedicated Entrepreneur. He earned his doctorate in Ministry from the School of the Great Commission Bible College in Columbia, South Carolina. Following his academic achievements, he served as the Director of Operations at Lighthouse University in Columbia, South Carolina.

Despite his impressive track record, Dr. Flournoy remains connected to his roots as the Vice President of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Branch and Senior Pastor of ReBirth Cathedral of Praise in Charlotte, NC. In February 2024, Dr. Ra'Shawn Flournoy was appointed as the Executive Director of the Quality Comprehensive Health Center, a 501C3 organization based in the West End, Charlotte, NC. This multi-faceted, one-stop shop has been providing Comprehensive Health Services for over 19 years.

Dr. Flournoy's expertise in the non-profit sector has been instrumental in introducing innovative and effective solutions to the organizations he collaborates with. His unconventional methods have consistently delivered positive outcomes and sustainable growth. Dr. Rashawn Flournoy's unwavering commitment to creating a lasting impact is exemplified through his continued dedication to the Quality Comprehensive Health Center. In his role as Executive Director, he ensures that the center delivers high-quality and comprehensive healthcare services to the community.



Mamie R Floyd, PhD

Grant Reviewer and Owner of Just Consult, Incorporated| Panelist

Dr. Mamie R. Floyd was born and raised in Miami, Florida and is the wife of Deacon Michael Floyd, Sr. of 38 years, the mother of four Adults, and Grandmother of seven. Earned a BA in K-12 Education in 1999 from Union Institute, Miami, FL; a MS in Exceptional Student Education, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL in 2004 and served in the Miami-Dade County Public School System for 16 years as an Educator.



Completed by Ph.D. in Conflict Resolution & Analysis, from Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL in 2020. Serves as a Federal Grant Reviewer and Owner of JustConsult, Inc. as a Non-Profit Business Developer. Serves in Ministry at The Connecting Place of Greater Salem Church as a Co-Lead with the Health & Wellness Ministry/Intergenerational Resource Hub, Mother In Zion Ministry, and as a Missionary with the St. Croix Jurisdictional of the Church of God in Christ under the Leadership of Bishop Alan G. Porter and Elder Annette Porter. Ministry of Helps with the Seniors is the Specialty, providing resources and outlets for Health & Wellness, conducting Events to forward the necessary information about disparities surrounding Chronic Disease and how to get to your absolute Best You!

Judy Ford, MPH, MHS

Senior Health Manager, Mecklenburg County Public Health | Greetings on behalf of the Office of Health Equity

Judy Ford is the Senior Health Program Manager for the Office of Health Equity with Mecklenburg County Public Health. In that role, she provides overall leadership and oversight for the operations, management and administration of the Office of Health Equity and its 5 programs, which serve to advance health equity in communities throughout Mecklenburg County by reducing health disparities in the areas of:



- access to care (Community Health Worker Initiative);
- chronic disease risk (Village HeartBEAT Program);
- maternal and child health outcomes (Improving Community Outcomes for Maternal and Child Health – ICO4MCH);
- parenting skills & child development/family well-being (Positive Parenting Program – Triple P); and
- public health knowledge, information and service use (Community Engagement Program).

Judy is a seasoned professional with over 25 years of experience as a manager, leader, entrepreneur, coach, and volunteer in: community health programming; health & wellness promotion; philanthropy & foundation grantmaking; nonprofit organizational leadership; and professional, career, and leadership development coaching.

Judy has served in senior leadership positions with national, regional and local grantmaking foundations. She also volunteered as chair, vice-chair and/or committee chair on boards of directors, steering committees, public-private funding collaboratives, conference committees and/or working groups of national, regional and local nonprofit organizations, professional associations and leadership development organizations.

Judy earned her Bachelor of Science in Anatomy & Physiology from Boston University; a Master of Public Health degree in Health Behavior & Health Education from The University of Michigan; and a Master of Health Science degree in Health Policy & Management from The Johns Hopkins University.

In addition to her career commitments, Judy enjoys traveling, writing poetry, reading a good memoir or novel, journaling, tending to her garden and more houseplants than she will ever have enough house for, and prioritizing precious quality time with her beloved family and friends.

Jada Jackson, M.Ed

Community Engagement Manager, Northeastern University in Charlotte | Panelist

Jada Jackson, M.Ed. (they/them/theirs), is a dedicated leader in higher education and community, serving as the Community Engagement Manager at Northeastern University-Charlotte. With a strong background in academic partnerships and social impact, Jada works to build meaningful collaborations between the university and local organizations to expand access, resources, and opportunities for all communities. A Raleigh, NC native and proud HBCU graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, Jada earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology before obtaining a Master of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from NC State University. Currently pursuing a Doctor of Education with a concentration in Workplace Learning, they focus on innovative approaches to strengthening academic and community partnerships.



Since moving to Charlotte in 2019, Jada has led strategic initiatives that elevate community-centered programming and foster diversity, equity, and inclusion. At Northeastern, they develop partnerships with schools, healthcare institutions, and community organizations, advancing initiatives that support all populations. Their expertise spans academia, counseling, and operations management, with a career deeply rooted in holistic wellness and social justice. As a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Jada has shared insights at conferences on student engagement and multicultural counseling practices. Their current work emphasizes DEI representation, increasing enrollment through community engagement, and cultivating corporate partnerships that provide long-term institutional support. Passionate about fostering inclusive networks and sustainable growth, Jada remains committed to strengthening Charlotte's academic and community ecosystem. Their leadership bridges education and social impact, ensuring that partnerships with Northeastern University-Charlotte drive lasting, positive change.

Kendra Jason, PhD

Associate Professor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Founder, Work 4 Change | Keynote

Dr. Kendra Jason (she/her/hers) is the founder of Work 4 Change, a workplace equity consultancy. She is an Associate Professor of Sociology in the College of Humanities & Earth and Social Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Dr. Jason is an interdisciplinary health disparities scholar who examines the multi-level factors that influence the relationship between race, health, and desired workforce participation. She has a particular interest in how workplace experiences shape the health and well-being of marginalized workers. She is also passionate about home-insecure Black mothers in Charlotte and the latent impacts of COVID-19.



Through her community-based work with the urban CORE Institute at UNC Charlotte, she has been active on the I-85 Corridors of Opportunity project focusing on wellness in the West Sugar Creek Corridor. Dr. Jason's research on these issues is published in The Gerontologist, Journal of Applied Gerontology, Journal of Aging and Health Occupational Health Science, Social Currents, The Journal of Sociology and Social Work, and Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities; and has been featured on Forbes.com and PBS Next Avenue. She is the editor of Race and Social Justice: Building and Inclusive College through Awareness, Advocacy, and Action (2023).

Jaramial Lee, MPA, CCHW

**Community Engagement Health Educator,
Mecklenburg County Public Health | Session
Co-Facilitator**

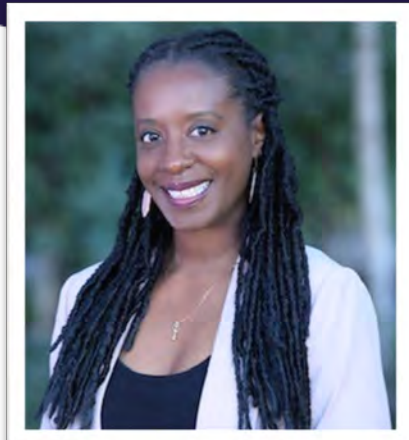
Jaramial earned a B.S. in Political Science and Sociology from Winston-Salem State University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Connecticut. He is also a Certified Community Health Worker. Jaramial has always been committed to public service, therefore, his career journey entails a vast number of enriching experiences. First, he served as an educator for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools for three years. After that, he moved to the Department of Community Resources and was a valuable member of the MECKSuccess and Child Support Enforcement teams. His leadership experience spans over numerous areas, including local shelters, educational institutions, faith-based groups, and community coalitions, showcasing his commitment to community development and support. Currently, he is a dedicated Public Health Educator for Mecklenburg County Public Health's (MCPH) Community Engagement program. He also works closely with MCPH's HIV/STI Division. In this role, he utilizes his knowledge from previous experiences to promote a healthier Mecklenburg County. Jaramial's motto is "Meet the people where they are". He embodies this in his day-to-day work as he constantly prioritizes community outreach and relationship building. Jaramial demonstrates the spirit of service, motivated by a genuine desire to create positive change.



Chantel Lowery, DrPH, CHES, CPSTI

**Health Program Supervisor, Mecklenburg
County Public Health | Session Facilitator**

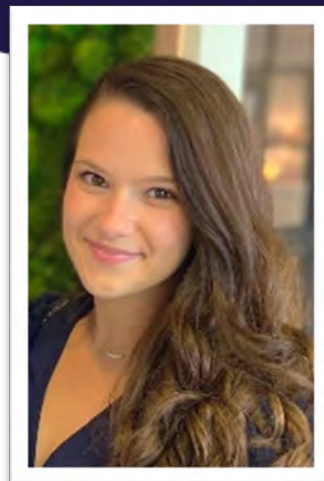
Dr. Chantel Lowery is a Health Program Supervisor for the Office of Violence Prevention in Mecklenburg County Public Health (Charlotte, North Carolina). She has worked in the field of public health for over 10+ years, received her Doctorate in Public Health from Loma Linda University, Masters from the University of Southern California, her Bachelors of Arts in Human Development from the University of California, San Diego and is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). Within the Office of Violence Prevention, Dr. Lowery focuses on establishing meaningful relationships with the faith-based community and their violence prevention efforts and bringing awareness to gun violence prevention through educational materials, presentations, and highlighting June as Gun Violence Awareness month.



Irini McCarthy

Community Impact Director, American Health Association | Panelist

Irini McCarthy serves as the American Heart Association's Community Impact Director for the Greater Charlotte Market. Irini engages with community members to create equitable and sustainable changes around hypertension, nutrition security, cardiac emergency response plans, and tobacco prevention and cessation. In her previous roles, Irini has been involved in project management, coalition building, consulting, food system changes in rural settings, and tobacco-free environments for youth/young adults, as well as improving community health through regulatory actions and voluntary policies. Irini has an interest in grassroots efforts, equitable change, and emphasizing collective impact so that all people can lead healthier lives where they live, work, play, and pray. When she's not working, Irini is spending time with her husband, son, and their bernedoodle. She enjoys going to church, hiking, exploring new places, trying new foods, and connecting with family and friends!



Amore' McCullough, CCHW

**Community Engagement Health Educator,
Mecklenburg County Public Health | Session Co-Facilitator**

Amore' is a graduate of UNC Charlotte where she earned her B.A in Communication Studies with a concentration in Health and she is dually credentialed as a Community Health Worker. She is also a proud alumni of the Health Career Connection (HCC) Internship Program. Amore' is incredibly active in various committees and programs within Mecklenburg County Public Health (MCPH). She serves as a Promotions Coordinator on the MCPH Wellness & Recognition Committee and she is a mentee in the 2025 Cohort of the MCPH Mentorship Program. Amore' is a creative at heart, therefore, she enjoys incorporating innovative practices to her work in community engagement to garner stronger interest and involvement from community members. Personally and professionally, she is passionate about wellness, nutrition, fitness and health education. Amore' hopes to utilize all her skills, talents and passions to become a valuable resource for others and promote healthy living as she progresses in her career journey.



Michelle Partridge-Doer, MS, MPH

**Health Program Manager, Mecklenburg County
Public Health | Session Facilitator**

Michelle Partridge-Doerr is the Health Communications Manager for Mecklenburg County Public Health, where she manages internal and external communications for the department, including its website, Health.MeckNC.gov, intranet, newsletters, and outreach materials. She has a BA in English from the University of Maryland (go Terps!), an MS in Technical Communication from NC State (go Pack!), and an MPH in Community Health Practice from UNC Charlotte (go Niners!). She is passionate about service and volunteers with Lasagna Love, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services, American Red Cross, MS Society, and local animal welfare organizations. In her free time, she loves reading, kayaking, hiking, and hanging out with her partner and three rescue dogs.



Kimberly Scott, DrPH, MPH, CHES

Assistant Health Director, Mecklenburg County Public Health | Greetings on behalf of the Division of Population Health

Dr. Kimberly Scott serves as the Mecklenburg County Public Health Assistant Health Director for Population Health. In this role, Scott oversees the Office of Health Equity, Office of Chronic Disease Policy and Prevention, Office of Violence Prevention, and Centers for Disease Control-funded COVID-19 health disparities initiatives.



Scott has more than 13 years of experience in public health advancing population health improvement through equitable and innovative policies, processes, and programming. Before joining Mecklenburg County Public Health, Scott led population health initiatives for Wake County Health and Human Services including Live Well Wake, a collective impact initiative aiming to improve population health outcomes in partnership with their most vulnerable residents. In this role, she convened more than 150 local partners to identify and advance shared community health improvement goals. Scott also previously served as Horizons Community Solution's Vice President of Community Health where she led evidence-based programming and community-based research concerning chronic disease prevention and rural population health improvement.

Scott has been active in professional, civic, and service organizations during her career including the American Public Health Association, Georgia Public Health Association, Eta Sigma Gamma Society of Health Educators, Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is also a Certified Health Education Specialist and a National Diabetes Prevention Program Certified Lifestyle Coach. Scott earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Albany State University, her Master of Public Health degree from Georgia Southern University, and her Doctor of Public Health in Advanced Practice Leadership from the University of South Florida.

Ricardo Ivan Torres

**Latino Program Director
Center for Prevention Services | Panelist**



Originally from Ponce, Puerto Rico, Ricardo Ivan Torres is the youngest of five siblings who relocated to Charlotte, NC in pursuit of a brighter future back in May 1982. Raised by a Vietnam veteran father, the family settled in Charlotte, where Ricardo became a product of the Charlotte Mecklenburg school system, graduating from East Mecklenburg High School in 1996.

Initially drawn to a career in education, Ricardo's path shifted towards human services while attending Central Piedmont Community College. It was during an internship with Communities In Schools that Ricardo discovered a passion for helping Latino youth and families, igniting a lifelong commitment to serving the community.

During this journey, Ricardo met high school sweetheart, Diana Torres, and together they have proudly raised two teenage daughters. Ricardo's professional trajectory spans over two decades, beginning with roles at The Salvation Army Women and Children's Shelter and later at Anuvia Prevention and Recovery Center.

Ricardo's career took a pivotal turn upon joining the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department's Gang Intervention program, where significant contributions were recognized with state awards. Despite funding cuts in 2013, Ricardo persevered, completing a bachelor's degree in human services from Pfeiffer University in 2015.

Subsequently, Ricardo leveraged expertise in bilingual member engagement at Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, focusing on serving the Latino community. This experience led to the current role as the Latino Program Manager at the Center for Prevention Services, where Ricardo oversees programs and resources for the Latino population.

Throughout this journey, Ricardo has remained dedicated to community involvement, volunteering with organizations like Alianza Latino Drug-Free Coalition, where Ricardo served as vice chair and chair for five years. Today, Ricardo continues to advocate for and empower Latino families, striving to create innovative programs that safeguard youth and communities from various challenges.

Aubrielle Wallace, MPH, CCHW

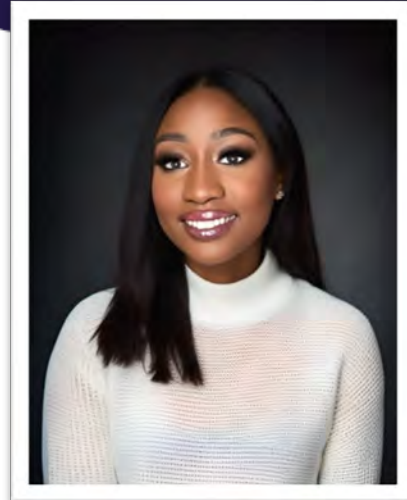
**Community Engagement Health Educator,
Mecklenburg County Public Health | Session
Co-Facilitator**

Aubrielle Wallace serves as a Public Health Educator in the Office of Health Equity with Mecklenburg County Public Health. She is a graduate of UNC Charlotte where she earned a B.S. in Kinesiology and Master's in Public Health (MPH). Aubrielle has a background in program management, corporate wellness, health communications, and community engagement. Her passion as a public health professional is to improve the health and wellbeing of the community through education, advocacy and reducing health disparities. She is a member of several community health coalitions, public health professional organizations and has several health certifications.



Brittany Weatherall, MHA, CCHW

**Health Equity Fellow and Coalition Coordinator,
Mecklenburg County Public Health | Session
Co-Facilitator**

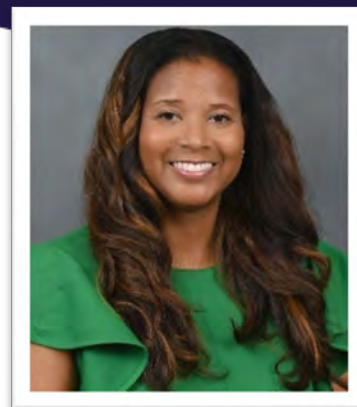


Brittany Weatherall is a public health professional with over seven years of experience in health communications, workforce development, stakeholder engagement, data analytics, and project management. She holds a Master's in Healthcare Administration and a Bachelor's in Public Health, equipping her with the expertise to address health disparities and advance equitable access to care across community and clinical settings. Brittany is dedicated to amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and public health professionals through culturally relevant communication, multi-channel engagement strategies, and advocacy efforts. She has led public health initiatives, managed communication platforms, coordinated coalitions, and implemented data-driven strategies to improve health outcomes and strengthen the public health workforce. Her work on addressing social determinants of health has contributed to actionable strategies that improve health outcomes in underserved communities while increasing public health professionals' skills and self-efficacy in advancing health equity.

As a skilled communicator and collaborative leader, Brittany has presented at conferences and webinars, sharing best practices with diverse audiences. She serves as a Health Equity Fellow and Coalition Coordinator for a local CHW network in Charlotte, North Carolina, fostering collaboration among CHWs and community partners to drive impactful initiatives. In her role as a CHW Data Consultant, Brittany leverages data insights to inform decision-making and evaluate communication strategies. Brittany's mission is to empower frontline public health workers and create healthier, more equitable communities through research, advocacy, and education. Her ability to build strong partnerships, navigate complex systems, and address the root causes of health disparities reflects her unwavering commitment to advancing health equity.

Charlene Whitaker-Brown, DNP, MSN, FNP-C, PMHNP- BC, CHFN, RN

**CEO & Founder, The Mindheart Institute and
Wellness Center | Institute Facilitator**




Dr. Charlene Whitaker-Brown is a dual-certified Family and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and a Clinical Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Dr. Whitaker-Brown's contributions to the field of nursing education, her dedication to fostering community partnerships, and her advocacy work for Alzheimer's awareness have made her an invaluable asset to both UNC Charlotte and the Charlotte community. Notably, Dr. Whitaker-Brown served as the second Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program coordinator from 2014 to 2018. Under her leadership, the DNP program thrived, leading to a historic moment when she became the first DNP program coordinator to graduate the first post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice students from the School of Nursing.

Beyond her role within the university, Dr. Whitaker-Brown has played a pivotal role in establishing vital community partnerships with local clinical entities. Her clinical tenure of eleven years with the Sanger Heart and Vascular Heart Failure Clinic at Atrium Health was instrumental in forging these connections.

Currently, Dr. Whitaker-Brown continues to be an active and influential member of the community while engaging in scholarship and service. Some of her community service relationships include well known agencies in healthcare in the Charlotte community. She serves as a Community Advisory Board Member for the Care Ring Nurse Family Partnership, Clinical Director for Harmony Health, she is a Community Partner with AmeriHealth Caritas, general body member of Piedmont Black Nurses Association, and a key collaborator with the MindHeart Institute and Wellness Center [a mental health company she founded to answer the need to the mental health provider shortage in the state of North Carolina (www.mindheartiwc.com)].

In addition to these achievements, Dr. Whitaker-Brown has been recognized for her outstanding contributions to Alzheimer's advocacy and nursing leadership. In 2022, she was selected for the Inaugural UsAgainstAlzheimer's Brain Health Equity Nurse Fellowship, and in 2023, she was asked to stay on as a mentor to the new cohort of fellows. In the same year, she was appointed to the National Black Nurses Association's Committee on Brain Health and selected to be a fellow in the Inaugural Association of Black Nursing Faculty's Leadership Public Policy Fellow. Moreover, in 2023, she was chosen to participate in the mentorship program for the National Collaboratory to Address Elder Mistreatment.



A trailblazer in her own right, Dr. Whitaker-Brown made history in 2023 by becoming one of 2 Clinical Professors in the school of nursing and the first African American female in the School of Nursing to hold the title of Clinical Professor.

In her distinguished role, Dr. Whitaker-Brown has been instrumental in translating research into practice. Her clinical focus has primarily centered on improving the quality of life for heart failure patients and identifying ways to assist these patients in coping with depression and anxiety. However, since 2018, she has expanded her scope to incorporate more brain health initiatives and elder maltreatment into her work with heart failure patients. This expansion of her work was motivated by personal experience, as several of her family members were diagnosed with Alzheimer's dementia.

Furthermore, Dr. Whitaker-Brown's dedication to her field was recognized in 2021 when she was selected by the Point of Care Network (POCN) as America's Top NP in Cardiology/Heart Failure, underscoring her expertise and leadership in this critical area of healthcare.

