

Rural Health Capital Resources Council Stakeholder Gathering June 10-11, 2024



Power of Partnerships: Catalyzing Community Health Investments in Rural Places

2024 Speakers



Dr. Graham Adams, PhD, serves as the CEO of the South Carolina Office of Rural Health, a statewide non-profit organization striving to improve access to care, quality of life and health outcomes in rural and under-served communities. Since joining SCORH in 1995 and his appointment as CEO in 2002, Dr. Adams continues to provide technical assistance regarding strategic planning, grant development, funding opportunities, infrastructure development and resource allocation.

He holds adjunct faculty positions at several universities, as well as serving on the board of trustees for numerous national and statewide organizations. Dr. Adams has had the opportunity to provide congressional testimony on several occasions in addition to receiving secretarial appointments to national advisory committees for both the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Veterans Health Administration.

Dr. Adams received a doctorate degree in health administration and Masters of Public Health degree from the University of South Carolina, and a bachelor of science in psychology from Frostburg State University in Maryland. In 2022, Adams received the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor.





Erika W. Bell is the Community Development Regional Manager for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond serving North Carolina and South Carolina.

She joined the Bank in January 2020, bringing with her extensive experience in nonprofit management, youth development, community health, and work with low- and moderate-income individuals and families stemming from an 18-year stint in the nonprofit sector and in leading a small business.

Prior to joining the Richmond Fed, Bell served as the chief operations officer of a South Carolina YMCA association with oversight of 16 branches. During her time there she began the organization's Community Health Department. She holds a degree in mass communication from Winthrop University, is pursuing a Master of Business Administration at Clemson University, and is a member of Leadership North Carolina Class of XXVIII and of numerous community organizations.



Dr. Kelsey L. Conley-Thomas is an Agricultural Economist and researcher in Rural Economy Branch of the Resource and Rural Economics Division, at the USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS). Her research portfolio includes a recent report detailing the levels and changes in prime working-age natural cause mortality rates for rural areas.

Kelsey joined ERS in July 2020. Prior to joining ERS, she was a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Idaho and completed her Ph.D. and M.S. in Agricultural Economics and B.S. in Agricultural Communications at Oklahoma State University. Her research interests include rural infrastructure development and retention, communication and telecommunication implementation, and small business/ entrepreneurship policies and evaluation.



Robert Duehmig is the Director of the Oregon Office of Rural Health. Robert has been working at the Oregon Office of Rural Health since 2006. He has considerable health care and education policy knowledge with prior work including Associate Director of Government Relations at Oregon Health Science University (OHSU), Field Representative-Labor and Education, Congressman David Wu and Political Director, American Federation of Teacher –Oregon.

He is the current president of the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, Vice-Chair of the National Rural Health Association Policy Congress, Chair of the NRHA Government Affairs Committee.



Diane M. Hall, PhD, MEd, is the Director for the Office of Rural Health in CDC’s National Center for STLT Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce.

Prior to joining the Public Health Infrastructure Center, Dr. Hall was a senior health scientist in CDC’s Office of the Associate Director for Policy and Strategy (OADPS), where she led the office’s Strategic Engagement and Capacity Building work. She served as CDC’s rural health lead, led the agency’s public-private partnerships work, and oversaw training activities focused on using policy to improve the population’s health. As a recognized expert in knowledge synthesis and translation, Dr. Hall led the development of the office’s policy portal, POLARIS (Policy Analysis and Research Information System). Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Hall held several leadership positions within CDC’s response.

Previously, Dr. Hall held several positions in CDC’s Division of Violence Prevention and she served as lead of several translation products on Veto Violence.

Prior to coming to the CDC, Diane held an academic appointment at the University of Pennsylvania. Diane earned her B.A. in Psychology from Hollins College (now Hollins University) and earned her MEd in psychological services and her PhD in school, community, and child clinical psychology from the University of Pennsylvania.



Robin Hacke is Executive Director and cofounder of the Center for Community Investment. Since entering the field of community investment in 2007, Robin has raised and managed impact investment funds as Director of Capital Innovation at Living Cities; served as a Senior Fellow at the Kresge Foundation, where she researched and incubated a capital absorption practice to help local leaders strengthen their community investment ecosystems; and advised foundations and hospitals on how they can use investment to help overcome systemic racism and achieve greater equity and opportunity in their communities.

Robin brings three decades of investment and strategy experience to community investment, having previously served as a venture capitalist, strategy consultant, and public finance banker. She is a frequent speaker and writer on how to deepen the scale and impact of community investment and has served as a Visiting Scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and a member of the Steering Committee for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Working Cities Challenge.



Kristin Juliar is a consultant with the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, directing the Rural Health Capital Resources Council and Center. She served as Director of the Montana Office of Rural Health (MORH) and the Montana Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at Montana State University in Bozeman for 16 years.

Before coming to Montana, Ms. Juliar was the Director of Minnesota's Healthcare Education - Industry Partnership for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. She served as Executive Director of a rural development organization, working closely with rural communities on economic and community development projects, transportation planning, aging services, emergency medical services, rural health development, grant writing, and grants administration.

She serves on the Executive Committee of the National Rural Health Resource Center and was Chair of the National Rural Health Association Frontier Constituency Group. She is a member of the AHA Population and Community Health Advisory Committee. She has an M.A. in Urban and Regional Studies.



Erin Kelley is the Director of Health Initiatives at Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) where she leads LISC’s national work to improve health in communities across the country. Trained as a clinical social worker, Erin brings 20 years of cross-sector experience to this role at LISC. Through her combined experience at direct service nonprofits, community development intermediaries, academic research institutions, and local and federal government agencies, Erin brings a multi-faceted lens to her work addressing the social drivers of health.

Based in Washington, DC, Erin enjoys all the Capital region has to offer – from its proximity and easy access to the mountains and the ocean to weekend outings around the DMV with her family. Erin holds a BA from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Chicago.



Alana Knudson PhD, is a Senior Fellow in the Public Health Department at NORC and the Director of NORC’s Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis. She has 30 years of experience implementing public health programs, leading health research projects, and evaluating program effectiveness.

Alana leads the CMMI PA Rural Health Model Evaluation and the ETSU/NORC Rural Health Equity Research Center. She also has state and national public health experience at the ND Department of Health and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). Alana is a member of the RUPRI Health Panel.



Kellie Kubena has served since 2022 as the USDA Rural Health Liaison, working across USDA and located in the USDA Rural Development Innovation Center.

Over her 25 years in federal service at USDA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Kellie has worked on issues in environmental compliance, regulation, infrastructure funding, and strategic engagement.

Kellie has a Bachelor’s of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries from Texas A&M University and a Master’s of Science in Fisheries from the University of Washington.

Patrice H. Kunesh, descendant of the Hunkpapa Band of Lakota and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is the Commissioner, Administration for Native Americans and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native



American Affairs Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Kunesh began her legal career at the Native American Rights Fund and then served as in-house counsel to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. She also served on the faculty at the University of South Dakota School of Law.

Kunesh also has held appointments as the Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and as the Deputy Solicitor for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

In addition, she established the Center for Indian Country Development, an economic policy research initiative, at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, and founded Peñiŋ Haha Consulting, a social enterprise focused on culturally-driven economic development. In June 2022, she was appointed to the U.S. Treasury Community Development Advisory Board (CDFI Fund) as the representative for Native communities.

Kunesh holds a J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law and an M.P.A. from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.



Tom Morris serves as the Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In that role, Tom oversees the work of the Office of Rural Health Policy, which is charged with advising the Secretary on rural health issues. The Office, which has an annual budget of \$317 million, administers a range of research and capacity building grant programs that serve rural communities. In 2015, Tom received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service. A North Carolina native, Tom came into government as a Presidential Management Intern and has work experience in the U.S. Senate as well as various policy and program positions within HRSA and HHS.

He has an undergraduate degree in Journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Community Health from East Carolina University. He also earned a Certificate in Public Leadership from the Brookings Institution in 2008.

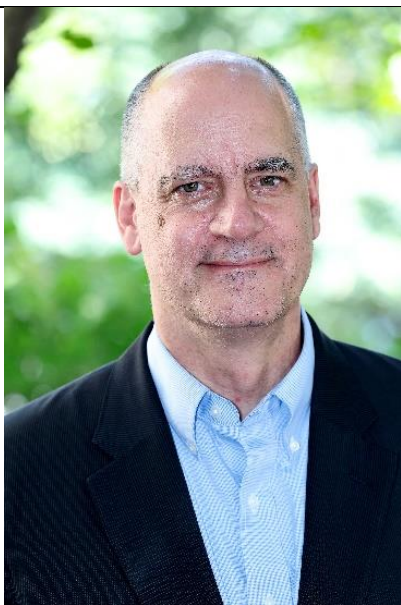


Tammy Norville joined the NOSORH team in March of 2018 as Technical Assistance Director and moved into the CEO role in June of 2022 with more than two decades of rural health experience.

As TA Director, she quickly established herself as a trusted national advisor. She developed the Rural Health Leadership Institute and laid the foundation for the Tiered Technical Assistance Program, allowing the development of a customized technical assistance strategy with hands-on capacity building and support alongside the SORH. Tammy also strengthened the collaborative approach to the Primary Care Committee. With a membership of SORH and collaborative partners, the Committee produces resources and sponsors education opportunities on policy and emerging health issues, as needed, providing ongoing support and capacity development to all SORH working with rural primary care providers.

She served rural safety-net providers for almost 15 years in the North Carolina DHHS Office of Rural Health while co-chairing the NOSORH RHC Committee and serving on the NOSORH Board of Directors.

Throughout her career, Tammy has developed and presented hands-on coding and documentation workshops and various business literacy and management topics, including RHC cost reporting, contracts monitoring, community development and engagement, human resource challenges, and Federal grant coordination activities.



Tony Pipa is a senior fellow in the Center for Sustainable Development at the Brookings Institution. Tony launched and leads the [Reimagining Rural Policy](#) initiative, which seeks to modernize and transform U.S. rural policy, and hosts the [Reimagine Rural](#) podcast, collecting the stories of rural towns across America that are experiencing positive change.

Tony has three decades of executive leadership experience in the philanthropic and public sectors addressing poverty and advancing inclusive economic development in the U.S. and globally. His career spans experiences from leading the U.S. at the U.N. to negotiate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to helping launch the Foundation for Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

He grew up in rural Elysburg, Pennsylvania, in the heart of anthracite coal country, and attended Stanford University,

graduated from Duke University, and earned a Master of Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School.



Allen Smart is a national spokesperson and advocate for improving philanthropic practice under his group –PhilanthropywoRx. Under the PhilanthropywoRx umbrella, he works with individual funders, Philanthropy Support Organizations, regional and national rural organizations and national non-profits on a wide range of strategy, writing/researching and staff coaching projects.


Allen is the former Interim President, Vice President of Programs and Director of the Health Care Division at the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust- a \$700 million statewide North Carolina funder. Prior to coming to the Trust in 2006, Allen was the Vice President of Programs at the Rapides Foundation, a healthcare conversion funder, in Alexandria, Louisiana. He has also served as Director of Community Development for a midwestern Catholic hospital system and as Grants Administrator for the City of Santa Monica, California.

As part of his personal and professional interest in philanthropy, Allen regularly writes for sites such as The Daily Yonder, Inside Philanthropy, Grantcraft and Giving Compass, as well as presenting to national and regional organizations like Capital Link, Grantmakers in Health, Philanthropy Southeast, National Rural Assembly, National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and the federal Office of Rural Health Policy. He is a current member of the Board of Directors for Healthy Communities by Design, Communities Joined in Action and the Board of the North Carolina Healthcare Association Foundation.



Ruth Thomas-Squance, PhD, MPH, is Co-Executive Director at the Build Healthy Places Network a national center positioning cross-sector partnerships from community development, public health and healthcare sectors to lead and leverage community-centered investments across the country to address the drivers of health and advance racial equity.

Dr. Thomas-Squance has a passion for health equity strategy, bringing an interdisciplinary lens and systems change mindset to the promotion of health and social equity. Her health equity journey has taken her from a successful career in biomedical research to management in the non-profit and public sectors. She brings 18 years of experience working in multi-sector collaborations with diverse partners.

	<p>She served as founding executive director of a Bay Area non-profit providing training in emotional intelligence skills development to low income and minority populations. Before joining the Network, she worked at San Francisco Department of Public Health in Whole Person Care, a Medi-Cal waiver program strategizing cross-sector approaches to improve outcomes for adults experiencing homelessness and high users of urgent emergent healthcare services.</p> <p>Thomas-Squance is Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the US Green Building Council and serves on the Multi-Sector Partner Group of the Center for Health Justice at the American Association of Medical Colleges and the American Public Health Association’s Alliance for Disease Prevention and Response.</p> <p>Dr. Thomas-Squance earned her doctorate from Imperial College, London, UK and her Master’s in Public Health from UC Berkeley.</p>
	<p>Kjestine Woods is the Program Officer of Health Initiatives with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). Kjestine focuses on managing grants, partnerships, and program implementation. Kjestine started her work at LISC with the Rural LISC team, which focused on supporting programming focused on housing, workforce, lending, disaster resilience, and health in rural communities. She has experience in program management, grant-making, healthcare, community health, and grassroots advocacy in non-profit and for-profit organizations.</p> <p>Before LISC, Kjestine was the director of social responsibility with the UnitedHealth Group Office of Social Responsibility and External Affairs in Washington, DC. She focused on philanthropic visibility, supporting the United Health Foundation’s mission to help build healthier communities through grant-making, partner cultivating, and stakeholder convenings. Kjestine also worked for over a decade with the American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network in various capacities focused on cancer research funding, public health education, grassroots advocacy, and patient services.</p> <p>Kjestine is a certified health education specialist and a returned Peace Corps Volunteer and received her BA in health promotions and fine arts from Purdue University and a Master of Science in healthcare administration and strategic leadership focusing on</p>

	<p>policy and regulatory leadership from the University of Denver. She resides in Colorado with her family.</p>
	<p>Emily Yu, MBA is committed to driving innovations that ensure everyone can be healthy and thrive. A social entrepreneur, speaker, and published author with more than 20 years of experience in the social sector, Emily is changing how change is made to tackle society’s most pressing challenges.</p> <p>As an outspoken advocate for developing responsible AI applications for the social sector, Emily founded AI PRIORI—a B2B and B2C SaaS platform that helps changemakers identify the most relevant information across all their documents, and generate insights for greater impact. She also currently helps the Newman’s Own Foundation realize its mission to nourish and transform the lives of children who face adversity as its Chief Partnerships and Program Officer. In this role, Emily forges innovative initiatives ranging from grant cycles and strategic planning to dynamic collaborations with cross-sector partners.</p> <p>Honors include being chosen as a Halcyon Fellow, Center for Community Investment Field Catalyst Fellow, and a Terrance Keenan Institute Fellow. She earned her MBA from New York University’s Stern School of Business and her BS from Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service.</p>