



Steering Committee

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

2015-2016

Tom Anderson directs the programs and operations for the Oklahoma Area Tribal Epidemiology Center (OK TEC) for the Oklahoma City Area Inter Tribal Health Board. The tribal, federal, state, and local health jurisdiction information the OK TEC collects, disseminate, and study, provide a unique lens to view the status of American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) populations.

The OK TEC serves 43 federally recognized tribes in the states of Oklahoma (38), Kansas (4), and Texas (1) and per federal statute serves area tribes as their public health authority. Mr. Anderson is a citizen of Cherokee Nation, is involved nationally on many fronts concerning tribal public health matters.

He obtained his Master's Degree in Public Health from the University Of Oklahoma College Of Public Health specializing in Biostatistics and Epidemiology. Mr. Anderson has many years of experience working with tribes, tribal communities, tribal consortiums and participates on tribal and tribal organizational workgroups, taskforces, consortiums, and planning committees. He shares the vision and mission for improving AI/AN health by identifying health risks, strengthening public health capacity, and developing solutions for disease prevention and control.

Sunshine Cowan, PhD, MPH, MCHES is an Associate Professor and the Coordinator of the Community/Public Health Program within the Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies at the University of Central Oklahoma. Her doctoral dissertation focused on environmental justice and the public housing controversy following Hurricane Katrina in the New Orleans area. Currently, she facilitates students in providing community interventions among residents of public housing in Oklahoma City. Sunshine holds a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University in Environmental Science with a focus on environmental justice, and an MPH in Health Promotion Sciences from the University of Oklahoma. She is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist. Sunshine was one of five faculty in Oklahoma recognized as a 2013 DaVinci Institute Fellow for promoting innovative teaching practices in the classroom.

Leslie Gelders brings more than 22 years of adult literacy experience to the Literacy Resource Office (LRO). During this time she has been a tutor, trainer, grant writer, program developer, and public speaker. Leslie served as a co-chair of the ProLiteracy America Governance Council, President of the OK Literacy Coalition (OLC), and member of the Oklahoma Literacy Initiatives Commission, in addition to numerous task forces and committees. In 2013, Leslie coordinated and supported a health literacy pilot project in five locations throughout the state. As a result of these efforts more than 370,000 Oklahomans received information, resources, and/or training in health literacy and related issues. Now in its second year, the project has been expanded to seven sites.

Larry Hopper, AICP, is the Planning Manager for the Central Oklahoma Transit Planning Authority (COTPA). He is a past Board Member of the OK Public Health Association and is a past President of the OK American Planners Association. Larry serves on the Board of the Oklahoma Alliance for Public Transportation (APT). Larry is a certified urban planner who now focuses on various bus and rail issues and the transit/land use connection. A native of Oklahoma City with a Master's from the University of Oklahoma in (1981), he is a member of Leadership OKC and is active in various community activities. His urban planner background has involved Bricktown revitalization, trails planning, annexation/de-annexation matters, livability, ADA accessibility, sustainability, urban design review, zoning/development administration, and many additional areas.

Beatrice Johnston is the Sr. Director of Racial Justice and Economic Empowerment Programs for the YWCA Oklahoma City. She has worked for approximately fifteen years with children, women and families. A native Oklahoman, Beatrice began working with the YWCA's Emergency Shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in 2000. She was later promoted to Assistant Director, then Director of Residential Services, supervising the Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Programs.

She helped pioneer the Economic Empowerment Program and provided group facilitation for Batterer Intervention. In 2007, Beatrice was promoted to her current position and has spent the last several years developing the YWCA's racial justice and economic empowerment programs, while directly supervising the YWCA McFarland Branch and overseeing the growth of Our Sisters' Closet resale shops. Her responsibilities significant to Racial Justice are Reading to End Racism, a literacy program for youth; the YWCA Multicultural Competency Plan; the Cultural Competency Committee; and training and outreach specific to cultural competency and racism.

Marshan Marick, MPH, CHES is an Instructor and Director of the Public Health undergraduate program at Langston University. Because she is responsible for instruction, advisement and recruitment, Mrs. Marick is continually looking for ways to place public health in the forefront of the communities in which she serves. She is involved in various facets of public health in an effort to facilitate change. As a certified health education specialist, she has had the privilege of serving the residents of Oklahoma for over ten years. Her experiences as a health educator have afforded her the opportunity to increase awareness and support behavior change related to chronic disease management. Witnessing the continual gaps in health outcomes has motivated her to identify additional ways in which she can make a tangible difference in the health of the community.

Richard Marshall works for the Oklahoma City Housing Authority as the Director of Leased Housing. A position he has held since September, 1992. He started his career in housing with the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency in September, 1983. Mr. Marshall is a Certified Public Housing Manager and a Certified Section 8 Administrator. Mr. Marshall is very active in state, local and national housing issues and has held many positions including President of the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. He is an active member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Fair Housing Council. Mr. Marshall is a graduate of Claremore Junior College and currently holds a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Management from the University of Science and Arts of Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Marisa New, MPH, OTR, is the Director of the Health Equity and Resource Opportunities Division at the Oklahoma State Department of Health. She is passionate about advocating for persons disadvantaged by conditions that limit their health potential. She works with partners that extend beyond the health care industry representing such sectors as food security, housing, transportation, public safety and business. Marisa is immediate Past Chair of the Health Equity Council for the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors and an appointee to the Region VI Health Equity Board for the National Partnership for Action and Oklahoma Affiliate Representative to the Governing Council for the Oklahoma Public Health Association. She is a member of the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Living Longer Living Stronger Partnership, the Oklahoma Alliance for Public Transportation and the Living Choice Advisory Committee. Marisa received her Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Oklahoma in Health Administration and Policy and is a registered Occupational Therapist.

Bud Scott is one of the founders of the Oklahoma Farm and Food Alliance and is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma (B.A. Letters) and the University Of Kansas School Of Law (J.D. Natural Resources & Energy). Bud has been involved in policy development at the local, state, and federal level on issues ranging from wind energy & transmission to Native American probate reform. As an attorney, Bud's primary focus has been in government relations, representing diverse interests before the Oklahoma State Legislature, Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Oklahoma Alcoholic Beverage License and Enforcement Commission, and numerous tribal and local venues. As Executive Director, Bud administers the OFFA contracts for food consultation, food system development, and Farm to School projects, in addition to working on the Historic Oklahoma City Farmers Market District development project. Bud also serves as the lead policy liaison for food related issues for local, tribal, state, and federal governments addressing their local food interests.

Mary Surbeck was formerly the literacy program coordinator for the Oklahoma City Community Foundation and a teacher for 29 years. She has researched literacy efforts in Oklahoma County to determine available resources, potential partners and unserved areas. She served on the executive team for the Literacy Funders Network an affinity group of the Council of Foundations. She is one of five founding members of the Oklahoma City Metro Literacy Coalition and she is currently serving as Board Chair.

Doug Walton is the Community Foods Coordinator at the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, where he works with the *Buy Fresh Buy Local* program and other statewide initiatives for improving access to nutritious locally-produced foods. Over the last sixteen years, he has advocated on behalf of local food systems and family farms while living in Utah, Kansas and Oklahoma. Doug co-founded the OK Farmers Market Alliance in 2001 and helped lay the groundwork for passage of the Oklahoma Farm to School Act in 2006. Most recently he has worked closely with state and federal agencies and other partners to establish programs for accepting food stamps, WIC and food benefits for low-income seniors at farmers markets in Oklahoma. For the past four years, he has also volunteered as manager of the Muskogee Farmers' Market. Doug lives on a small farm with his family outside Muskogee, where they raise cut-flowers, produce, herbs and other plants for sale at the market.