

Public Health Boot Camp 2019

Faculty Biographies



[Ashley Brazil \(Chicago House\)](#)

Ashley Brazil (She/her, They/them) is the Senior Career Specialist at Chicago House and Social Service Agency's Employment Program where she has been for three years. Ashley's role is unique on her team as it is a combination of grant management and leadership as well as direct service to clients. She is a 2018 PHBC alumna. She was drawn to the program in order to learn more about public health intervention design and development and definitely believes the program delivered. Ashley is passionate about mental health services being re-imagined using public health tools so they can reach the marginalized. She is working on becoming a master's level nursing student with plans to become a nurse practitioner so she can continue to lead this much needed shift in mental health service delivery.



[Johnathon Briggs, MPH \(Underwriters Laboratories\)](#)

Johnathon Briggs is a corporate communications lead at the global safety science company UL (Underwriters Laboratories) where he serves as a public relations and communications resource for UL offices worldwide. Prior to UL, he served as senior vice president of digital communications at Public Communications Inc. (PCI), a healthcare public relations firm. Before transitioning to corporate communications, Johnathon was the chief officer of external relations for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago where he directed health awareness campaigns, oversaw fundraising activities, and executed media relations strategies to advance legislative priorities. Johnathon received his digital marketing certification from the iMBA program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

He also draws on his 11-year career as a journalist for the *Baltimore Sun*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Chicago Tribune* as he conducts media training workshops for executives. A graduate of Stanford University, Johnathon holds a Master of Public Health degree from DePaul University where he studied text messaging as a tool for behavior change.



[Jen Brown, MPH \(Northwestern University\)](#)

Jen Brown is Director and Co-Founder of the Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (www.ARCCOnline.net) in Northwestern University's Center for Community Health. She has almost twenty years of experience building and supporting community-academic engaged research partnerships at project, institutional, and multi-institutional levels. She is on faculty in Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine. Jen is co-chair of the Chicago Department of Public Health's Healthy Chicago 2.0 Data & Research Team, member of the

Chicago Consortium for Community Engagement and Partnership for Healthy Chicago, and associate editor of the *Progress in Community Health Partnerships* journal.



Margaret Danilovich, PT, DPT, PhD (Northwestern)

Dr. Margaret Danilovich PT, DPT, PhD is a board-certified geriatric physical therapist and assisted professor at Northwestern in the Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences. Dr. Danilovich's research focuses on exercise interventions for older adults, specifically those with frailty. She has been funded by the NIA, Third Coast Center for AIDS Research, and the Foundation for Physical Therapy.



Erik Elias Glenn (Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus)

With more than a decade in HIV prevention, Erik Glenn is Executive Director of Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus. Like many of us, he began his career with a calling to address the daily injustices faced by racial, sexual, and gender minorities. Today, he manages a portfolio that works to reduce structural barriers to health equity among Black gay, bisexual, and same gender loving men. Erik is a graduate of University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration and University of Michigan.



Gary W. Harper, PhD, MPH (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

Gary W. Harper, Ph.D., M.P.H. is a Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, as well as a Professor of Global Public Health at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. In addition, he is a Visiting Professor at the The Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, and the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. Dr. Harper's research and community work focuses on the mental health and sexual health needs of adolescents and emerging adults who experience varying degrees of oppression and marginalization, especially Black gay/bisexual young men, transgender and other gender diverse youth, and youth living with HIV. For nearly 25 years, Dr. Harper has worked collaboratively with community agencies

and community members to develop and evaluate a range of culturally and developmentally appropriate mental health, sexual health, and HIV prevention programs for youth—working domestically in large urban cities and globally in Botswana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, and Zambia. In Dr. Harper's research, he utilizes mixed-methods and qualitative approaches to research; especially methods that help us understand the lived experiences and social justice needs of diverse groups of adolescents and young adults.



Mark Ishaug, MS (Thresholds)

Mark has dedicated his entire career to advocating for the rights of stigmatized and vulnerable people. For the past seven years, he has led Thresholds, an innovative community-based organization that provides behavioral healthcare and supportive housing to more than 10,000 people each year in Illinois. During his tenure at Thresholds, he has overseen explosive growth, but also a culture shift that embraces change, innovation, transparency, and yes – love. Thresholds has been recognized for five consecutive years as a Chicago Tribune Top Workplace and a Chicago's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For. Prior to his work at

Thresholds, Mark spent decades as a leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS as CEO of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Mark holds an MA in Political Science from Northwestern University and a BA in Government and International Studies from the University of Notre Dame.



[Laura Kaufman, MA \(Partners in Effective Philanthropy\)](#)

Laura Kaufman has run foundations and non-profit organizations for 30+ years. She is the President and Principal Consultant of Partners in Effective Philanthropy. Using an assets based approach, the firm helps nonprofits craft effective strategies for raising the funds they need, developing key leaders and creating the change they desire. Since opening in 2008, Partners in Effective Philanthropy has worked with over 80 local, national and international non-profit organizations.

Before opening her consulting firm, Laura was the Executive Director of the Jewish Women's Foundation of Chicago. During her 10-year tenure, Laura led the foundation from start-up to mature organization. Laura and her team raised 6.35 million dollars in individual donations and allocated \$1.24 million to projects in women's health, violence prevention, economic security, and education.

Laura has also served as Executive Director of the Boston Women's Fund and Northwest Action Against Rape, Development Director at Women, Inc. and as Program Director with the Chicago Chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Among other consulting projects, Laura has worked as:

- a coach with the Kellogg Center for Nonprofit Management: Fundraising Capacity Building Initiative,
- an assessor with the Arts & Business Council of Chicago's smARTgrowth Project,
- a founding consultant for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Capacity Building Assistance Program for small organizations serving communities of color,
- a consultant with the Chicago Foundation for Women's Core Concepts Coaching Initiative
- a coach with the Allstate Foundation's Executive Leadership Program, and
- an executive coach with the Center for Jewish Leadership at Spertus Institute

Laura specializes in building individual donor programs, strategic fund raising management, board development, women's giving, and small shop fundraising. She was named a "Woman to Watch in 2001" by Jewish Women International and awarded the Rodef Shalom Award for community service by SHALVA in 2008, the Rabbi Leonard J. Mervis Award for Social Justice from Oak Park Temple in January 2015 and a Global Justice Fellowship with American Jewish World Service in 2014. She is an Instructor in the Advanced Fundraising Program at the Kellogg Center for Nonprofit Management at Northwestern University. She is a contributor to the #SOCIALMEDIA NONPROFIT tweet Book01 and writes and speaks extensively on nonprofits and philanthropy. Laura is a member of the Board of Directors for P.I.N.G., Providing Instruments to the Next Generation and the Pro Bono Network.



[David Kern, PhD \(Chicago Department of Public Health\)](#)

Dave Kern is the Deputy Commissioner of HIV/STI Bureau with the Chicago Department of Public Health. In this role, Dave works with his team of 125 public health professionals to promote sexual health and wellness across Chicagoland. With an annual operating budget of more than \$50M, the HIV/STI bureau provides leadership and strategic direction for HIV and STI surveillance, epidemiology, and research; HIV prevention, care, and housing; and STI clinical services. Before coming to CDPH, Dave worked for the Washington State Department of Health where he managed the state's infection disease prevention response. In this capacity, he helped launch the nation's first PrEP Drug Assistance Program. Dave also served as the Director of Prevention for the

National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, a leading nonpartisan, non-profit association that represents public health officials who administer HIV and hepatitis programs in the U.S. and around the world. Dave now serves as a member of the NASTAD board of directors and as a member of the Internal Advisory Board for the Third Costs Center for AIDS Research.



Simone Koehlinger, PsyD (AIDS Foundation of Chicago)

For over 20 years, Simone has worked to address health disparities and a myriad of health issues, including HIV and sexually transmitted infections, tobacco, mental health, substance use, and obesity.

She has led a number of multi-disciplinary teams and coalitions to enhance community health and coordinated LGBT health related research projects.

In her previous capacity as the Director of the Office of Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Health at the Chicago Department of Public Health, she was responsible for developing and implementing citywide programs to increase health care access and provider competency. As the Director of Special Projects for the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago, Simone provided leadership and administrative management to ensure the successful implementation of an obesity prevention program and HIV prevention projects.

Simone received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology and her BA from Valparaiso University.

She is a proud runner, has finished her first 200-mile AIDS bicycle ride, and has completed two Chicago marathons as a member of AFC's TEAM TO END AIDS training program.



Meg McElroy, MA (AIDS Foundation of Chicago)

Meg's work at AFC focuses on the state and local special projects of the Policy & Advocacy team, including Getting to Zero Illinois. She brings her extensive experience in clinical counseling and program coordination to the organization. Her career centers LGBTQ and Women's Health issues, and more recently supporting new parents. Meg holds her Master's in Clinical Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and BA in Social Work with a Minor

in Women's Studies from Lewis University.



Leah C. Neubauer, EdD, MA (Northwestern University)

Dr. Leah C. Neubauer is an internationally recognized expert in curriculum development, teaching, training, learning and assessment. She is a multiple award-winning educator and evaluator who aims to facilitate learning, capacity-building and systems-strengthening among individuals and organizations. She leverages doctoral training in adult, continuing and professional education with academic public health to develop philosophical and theory-aligned, competency-driven approaches to real-world public health education and training. Neubauer serves as an Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University. She is Affiliated Faculty with the Center for Global Health and the Program of African Studies (PAS) and Ad-Hoc Faculty in

The Graduate School. She serves as Director of Accreditation for the Program in Public Health (PHP), and Co-Director of the MPH Degree Global Health concentration and Accelerated Public Health Program (APHP). Her primary area of scholarship is curriculum development and training in the public health and health-related professions. She conducts collaborative global mixed-methods research focused on the development, implementation, evaluation and dissemination of school-based sexual and reproductive health programs. She has received funding from a variety of sources including: NICHD, HRSA, PEPFAR/USAID, the State of Illinois, Chicago Department of Public Health, and other various governmental and private funding sources. Her work employs multidisciplinary, theory-driven approaches to accreditation, teaching, training, and evaluation capacity-building within varied settings. She teaches graduate-level courses in global health, public health and evaluation. She holds leadership roles in the evaluation and public health education professional communities serving as: co-chair of the American Evaluation Association (AEA) Local Affiliate Collaborative (LAC),

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) Appointed Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Task Force Conceptual Framework Chair, and an accreditation Site Visit Chair with the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).



Gregory Phillips II, PhD (Northwestern University)

Gregory Phillips II is an HIV epidemiologist with over a decade of work leading and supporting national and local projects to address the HIV epidemic and end health inequity among underserved and marginalized populations, particularly Black men who have sex with men and transgender women. His research focuses on using complex epidemiological data and community-based evaluations to identify, describe, and address health disparities. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Medical Social Sciences at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, and directs the Evaluation,

Data Integration, and Technical Assistance (EDIT) Research Program within the Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing.



Kat Ramirez-Mercado

Kat Ramirez-Mercado is a queer Boricua from Chicago byways of Humboldt Park and Little Village. Kat has over eight years of public health experience working to uplift medically underserved communities. She has worked within community organizations to normalize HIV testing, collecting and analyzing client-level data, and coordinating and evaluating evidence-based interventions. Kat served a two-year term as community co-chair of the Chicago Area HIV Integrated Service Council (CAHISC) in which she facilitated the two-year-long community-based participatory activities to provide feedback for the Chicago Department of Public Health's new HIV services portfolio. In collaboration with CAHISC members, set priorities and allocated resources for funding available from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other federal, state and/or city resources.

Kat's education journey was re-ignited after attending AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Public Health Bootcamp in 2015, proud recipient of the Christina Santiago award. She is currently enrolled at University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy for a Masters in Arts in Public Policy and recently earned her Bachelor of Arts in Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Grisel M. Robles-Schrader, MPA (Northwestern University)

Grisel is the Director of the Stakeholder-Academic Research Panel (ShARPs) Program and Evaluation, at the Center for Community Health (CCH), at Northwestern University. Her work aims to support community and stakeholder engagement in health research and evaluation and identify culturally responsive approaches in research and evaluation. She is also the Master of Public Health (MPH) Field Experience Director in the Program in Public Health. In this role she manages relationships with community partners and places MPH students at organizations where they gain practical public health experience.

Grisel is the Co-Chair of the Latinx Responsive Evaluation Discourse (La RED) Topical Interest Group of the American Evaluation Association and Treasurer of the Chicagoland Evaluation Association. Her background is in HIV/AIDS, adolescent reproductive justice issues, community mobilization, structural change interventions, translational research and health disparities, with a special emphasis on Latinx communities and urban areas. Born and raised in Chicago, Grisel has a Master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Metropolitan Planning and Urban Affairs from DePaul University.



Sara Semelka (AIDS Foundation of Chicago)

Sara Semelka is a project manager at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, leading the management of Getting to Zero Illinois, the plan to end the HIV epidemic in the state by 2030. After more than two years of community input and collaboration, the GTZ-IL plan was published in May 2019 and endorsed by Governor JB Pritzker. In her six years at AFC, Sara has trained and educated community members and providers about new prevention technologies, including PrEP and internal condoms by contributing to the Chicago Female Condom Campaign, the National Female Condom Coalition, the Midwest HIV Prevention and Pregnancy Planning Initiative, and Project Ready, Set PrEP! Her work on these projects at AFC has taken her around the state of Illinois and throughout country advocating for increased access to female condoms, PrEP and expanded prevention options for people of all genders, with a focus on cisgender and transgender women. Sara participated in the Public Health Bootcamp in 2014 and is delighted to come back!



Pedro A. Serrano, MPH (Cook County Health/Hektoen Institute)

Pedro is a public health researcher, with experience directing epidemiological, behavioral and clinical trials, using mobile and web health strategies, focusing on HIV prevention with gender and sexual diverse adolescent and young adult populations. Pedro is based at Cook County Health/Hektoen Institute of Medicine in Chicago and has worked on protocols of the Adolescent Trials Network, HIV Prevention Trials Network, Microbicide Trials Network and is currently directing a limited interaction targeted epidemiology study named “#keepingitLITE: Exploring HIV Risk in Vulnerable Youth with Limited Interaction.” #keepingitLITE is a cohort study designed to monitor HIV risk and prevention behaviors and explore the socioecological factors that influence behavior and attitudes across the US.



Scott Schoettes, JD (Lambda Legal)

Scott A. Schoettes, who is openly HIV positive, is the HIV Project Director at Lambda Legal, the oldest and largest national legal organization dedicated to making the case for equality on behalf of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and people living with HIV, through impact litigation, education, and policy work. Schoettes litigates impact cases involving discriminatory denial of employment and services based on a person’s HIV status, as well as in the areas of HIV criminalization and access to care. He does a significant amount of amicus work on issues of import to people living with HIV, notably twice co-authoring amicus briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court’s review of the Affordable Care Act. On the policy side, Schoettes was the point-person for Lambda Legal’s work on the repeal of the HIV travel ban and works on the legislative reform of laws criminalizing conduct based on HIV status. He has presented on various topics related to HIV discrimination at forums across the country, including the White House. Schoettes graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown Law and clerked for the Honorable J. Frederick Motz (U.S.D.C. Md.).



Cynthia Tucker, MS (AIDS Foundation of Chicago)

Cynthia Tucker has worked in the HIV/AIDS service sector for more than 20 years. Currently she is the Vice President of Prevention and Community Partnerships at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Her projects are successful, in part, because she is a natural connector who creates genuine rapport with people, motivating and inspiring them.

Cynthia has lead several innovative HIV-prevention programs at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) that are changing the story of this disease from one of despair to one of hope. Currently, she is collaborating with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago, Chicago Department of Public Health, and the Illinois Department of Corrections an array of clinical and non-clinical partners to increase awareness and connect individuals directly to housing and employment services.

Her second program, known as the Women's Connection, gets at the heart of the epidemic by focusing efforts on cis and trans women of color from all communities. The program reaches women and providers directly, linking participants to care services and life-giving resources while linking providers to culturally competent training and education. Partners include Stroger Hospital, PrEP Connect Program and Chicago Women's AIDS Project. Over 30 community partners are a part of a taskforce to create creative strategies to engage and mobilize women.

Prior to joining AFC in 2005, Cynthia was the director of prevention at the Chicago Women's AIDS Project (CWAP) for eight years. At CWAP she created new ways for engaging African-American communities and implemented programs that were responsive to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. CWAP is well known for working with vulnerable women and for advancing advocacy on women's issues, and Cynthia embodied the values behind that mission. Cynthia has a master's degree in curriculum and instruction community programs and a B.S. in nutrition. She is currently a doctoral candidate in public health with an emphasis on community education.



Dan Wohlfeiler, MJ, MPH (California Department of Public Health/Building Healthy Online Communities)

Dan Wohlfeiler is the founder and director of Building Healthy Online Communities, a collaboration of HIV/STD prevention organizations and the owners of dating and hook-up apps aiming to reduce transmission among gay and bisexual men. Dan directed programs at the STOP AIDS Project in San Francisco, the nation's largest program focusing on HIV prevention for gay/bi men, from 1990 to 1998. He then served as Chief of the Office of Policy, Planning and Communications at the California Department of Health's STD Control

Branch. He has also worked in Spain, Nicaragua, and for the World Health Organization. A former documentary filmmaker, Dan has a longstanding interest in structural and network-level interventions to reduce transmission, and in partnering with the private sector. He lives five blocks from the hospital where he was born. He has never worn patchouli oil despite the fact that he has lived in Berkeley for so long. Dan holds Master's degrees in Public Health and Journalism from the University of California, Berkeley.



Jill Wolf, LCSW (Caring Ambassadors)

Jill Wolf is the Hepatitis C Program Director with the Caring Ambassadors Program and works to empower people and communities to be ambassadors for their health. Jill engages with key hepatitis C players including politicians, patients, and their families, providers, and system administrators to understand and respond to the challenges posed by the virus at the individual, community, state, and national levels. For the past five years, Jill has served as Addiction Consultant on the University of Chicago's telehealth ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes) program and helped train over 250 providers in hepatitis C care in the Chicagoland area. Jill holds a Master of Social Work degree from the Catholic University of America and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker clinically trained in treating survivors of trauma and provides holistic approaches to healing through her private practice.



Sofia Sanchez

My name is Sofia Sanchez, and I am a rising junior at Northwestern University studying social policy and religious studies. At Northwestern, I am involved in the Undergraduate Prison Education Program, Supplies for Dreams, the Global Engagement Summit and have founded two magazines with a mission of representing people of color on campus. As a native to Illinois and its public school system, I am extremely excited to be working as an intern under Professor Neubauer on improving access to education in Chicago and beyond! I am helping to coordinate the Public Health Boot Camp.



Kathryn Donermeyer

My name is Kathryn Donermeyer and I'm a rising junior at Northwestern. I'm majoring in economics and global health studies. At Northwestern, I'm involved in GlobeMed, which is a student organization focused on promoting sustainable international health partnerships and global health education, and I am also a member of Women in Business. I am very excited to be interning with Professor Neubauer and helping to coordinate the Public Health Boot Camp.