

## **2014 MCH & Immunization Conference**

### **Presenters – Bios**

**Jen Aist, BS, IBCLC, RLC** is the manager of Maternity Outpatient Clinics & Services at the Children's Hospital at Providence and the Chair of the Breastfeeding Workgroup for the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership. She has been a board certified lactation consultant for 20 years.

**Joshua Arvidson MSS, LCSW** is the Director of the Alaska Child Trauma Center at Anchorage Community Mental Health Services and an Associate Director for the Complex Trauma Treatment Network a SAMHSA funded national trauma training and technical assistance network. Joshua has presented at over 50 conferences including the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies and National Child Traumatic Stress Network. Joshua was a lead author for the Alaska Trauma 101 curriculum, the Principal Investigator for the Alaska Child Trauma Clinical Outcomes Study and his work has been published in the Journal of Child Traumatic Stress Studies. Joshua is particularly interested in examining how our growing scientific and clinical understanding of traumatic stress can improve the way we provide services particularly for young children and families. Joshua teaches courses on clinical practice and trauma for the University of Alaska Anchorage. Joshua was born and raised in Chugiak Alaska, where he currently lives with his wife and their St. Bernard "Duke."

**Laura Avellaneda-Cruz, LMSW** works as an epidemiologist at the Alaska Native Epidemiology Center of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, focusing on maternal child health, domestic violence, sexual violence, and child trauma. She is a Licensed Master Social Worker and an artist with a background as a victim advocate, classroom teacher, and researcher in multi-lingual and multi-cultural settings, and is able to draw on these diverse experiences in her work within the Alaska Tribal Health System. Her work includes improving the data and information available on domestic and sexual violence and adverse childhood experiences in Alaska, increasing the capacity of tribal health organizations to effectively support victims of violence and childhood adversity, and creating resources such as Alaska-specific "safety cards" and a statewide resource guide to DV/SV and child maltreatment-related services. She recently became a mother to an energetic baby girl.

**Yvette "Charlie" Barrows, RN, BSN** has worked for State of Alaska Public Health Nursing for five years; she is currently the Public Health Nurse Manager for the Kenai Peninsula Sub-region. Charlie transferred to the Kenai Peninsula from Bethel where she had worked as a PHN itinerant and Team Lead, and prior to that, she had worked in Washington State for the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. Charlie is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University and is working toward her MPH.

**Dr. Rita Blumenstein** was born and raised in the Yup'ik village of Tununak on Nelson Island, Alaska. Her cultural heritage includes Yup'ik, Aleut, Athabaskan, and Russian. Rita is currently the Program Manager for Native Ways of Knowing at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Behavioral Health and Rural Services (BHRS). She is instrumental in providing wisdom and support to programs within BHRS including the Behavioral Health Aides, suicide prevention, substance abuse, and other behavioral health related initiatives. She is a certified traditional healer and continues to practice using plants for medicinal purposes promoting mind, body, and spirit while working with individuals and healing. Rita is an active member of the International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers for the next 7 Generations.

**Kate Burkhart** is executive director of the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the Alaska Mental Health Board, and the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council. Prior to joining the Boards and Council, Burkhart served as a public interest attorney with Alaska Legal Services Corporation in Nome and Southeast Alaska, representing indigent, elderly, and disabled clients and victims of domestic violence and child abuse. She also served as an assistant Alaska state

ombudsman, investigating citizen complaints about a variety of executive agencies. She has lived and worked in Alaska since 2001.

**Katsi Cook** is an Aboriginal Midwife and the co-founder of the National Aboriginal Council of Midwives (NACM) of the Canadian Association of Midwives. She is a member of the Association of Ontario Midwives, the founding Aboriginal Midwife of the Six Nations Birthing Centre, in Ohsweken, Ontario and the Executive Director of the Woman is the First Environment Collaborative at the nonprofit, Running Strong for American Indian Youth.

**Michele Curtis, MD, MPH, MML** received her medical degree from the Texas Tech Regional Academic Health Science Center at Lubbock and completed her Ob/Gyn Residency at Akron General Medical Center in Akron, Ohio. Dr. Curtis is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology. In 2001, she earned her Master's in Public Health from the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston with a focus on health policy; following this, she was accepted into the Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship. From 2003-2004, Dr. Curtis worked in Washington DC, in the office of Senator Jeff Bingaman where she was actively involved in healthcare, maternal health, and child health policies and legislative proposals. Dr. Curtis has continued to work at the State of Alaska and national level on various issues related to health care policy, with a special focus on women's health.

**Marcy Custer, BSN, MS** received her BSN from Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She earned a Master of Science from the University of Alaska Anchorage School of Nursing, completing the 'Community Nursing' track. Marcy began her public health career as a generalist public health nurse in Wyoming. In Alaska, she worked as an itinerant public health nurse providing well child exams, including Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program screenings. As a nurse consultant, she has years of experience teaching child health to new public health nurses.

**Margaret Olin Hoffman David, BA** se'ooze. Tleyegg'e hut'aane eeslanh. Tlaa Ologhe huts'enh ts'adaanslet dehoon Anchorage lesdo. My parents are Dee Olin of Ruby and David Hoffman of Anchorage. My maternal grandparents are the late Lillian and Fred Olin Jr. of Ruby/Galena/Kokrines, and Lorraine and the late John Honea of Ruby/Kokrines. My paternal grandparents are George and the late Helen Hoffman of Spokane, WA. I am Koyukon Athabascan and Swiss American. Ruby is the place I call home, while I live in Anchorage.

Margaret is the Manager for the Health Promotion Program at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in Anchorage. She grew up throughout rural Alaska, always returning home to Ruby and fish camp for the summer. She studied biology in Oregon and graduated from Willamette University in 2003, she served as a Health Education Peace Corps Volunteer in rural Nicaragua 2004-2006, and returned home to Alaska in 2007 to work in community health. She is also a doula, childbirth educator, lactation educator, and a 2011 Healthy Native Communities Fellowship alumni. She is married to her high school sweetheart and they have a 3 ½ year old son, a 2 year old daughter and a 6 month old son.

**Janet Englund, MD** is a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Seattle Children's Hospital, a member of the Center for Clinical and Translational Research at Seattle Children's Research Institute, and a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Englund is also a clinical associate at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, where she is active in many transplant-related protocols in the prevention and treatment of disease in the immunocompromised host. In addition, she helps evaluate new and improved vaccines against respiratory infectious diseases. She serves on national and international committees for vaccines as a liaison member to the CDC-sponsored Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, is a member of the FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, and is a member of the influenza advisory group and maternal immunization safety group to the WHO.

Dr. Englund's research group is actively studying vaccines in diverse populations, including infants, school-age children and pregnant women, as well as evaluating antiviral resistance and novel methods of antiviral therapy.

**Gary Ferguson, ND** is Director of Wellness & Prevention at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and a staff doctor at Avante Medical Center in Anchorage, Alaska. Dr. Gary is of Unangan/Aleut ancestry and grew up in the Shumagin Islands community of Sand Point. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Multnomah University, and his Doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine from the National College of Natural Medicine. He serves as board director for The Aleut Corporation, The Aleut Foundation, and the Alaska Food Policy Governing Council. He also serves on the Alaska Lung Association Leadership Council, Alaska Tobacco Control Alliance Steering Committee and the American Diabetes Association American Indian/Alaska Native Advocacy Committee. He is co-producer of the ANTHC Store Outside Your Door Initiative ([www.storeoutside.com](http://www.storeoutside.com)), addressing food and nutrition security for the First People of Alaska.

**Barbara Jean Franks, AAS** is the Program Associate for the Suicide Prevention Programs for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), in the Division of Behavioral Health. After the life-changing events of losing her youngest son to suicide at the age of 23, two days before her husband of 25 years died of cancer, the lack of resources in 1997 to help her move forward prompted her to make her lifetime dream of attending college where she received her Associate in Applied Science Degree in Human Services at the University of Alaska/Anchorage. Ms. Franks is compassionate about the work, but most importantly believes that it's important to let others know they are not alone. She is a Consulting Trainer in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, a Master Trainer on safeTALK, she received her Question, Persuade and Refer, Certificate, is a Level One Critical Incident Stress Manager. Ms. Franks is a Facilitator in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's (AFSP) Workshop on Bereavement Help for Suicide Survivors and most recently a Trainer on Survivor Voices. Her membership with AFSP includes a position with the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council. She is also Alaska's Representative on the Suicide Prevention Action Network, an Advisor for the University of Alaska Anchorage Suicide Prevention Initiative and serves on the Board of the Alaska Psychiatric Institute.

**Sandra Haldane, BSN, RN, MS** received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Baylor University and her Master's of Science in Nursing and Healthcare Administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Her clinical nursing experiences include OB, Med-Surg., and ICU in New Mexico, Texas, and Alaska. Her leadership experiences have been with the Indian Health Service (IHS) Alaska Area Office and Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) where she was Area Nurse Consultant and ANMC Nurse Executive. In 2003, Sandy took the position of the IHS Director Division of Nursing Services and IHS Chief Nurse; providing guidance and advocacy on nursing practice, policy, and budget justification; supporting a variety of programs, grants, and continuing education; overseeing Public Health Nursing, Nursing Recruitment, Women's Health, and the Community Health Representatives Programs. While at IHS Headquarters she actively worked with the Improving Patient Care (IPC) Program, an effort to improve primary care and to implement the concepts of the Patient/Family Centered Medical Home, during which time she became one of four national IHS/ IPC Collaborative Directors. In April 2012, Sandy became the Administrator of the Maternal Child Health Service Line for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Southcentral Foundation at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. In this capacity she works closely with the clinical and organization leadership of the broad array of programs that provide MCH services; focusing her energy on access, quality, safety, and partnerships. Sandy is a member of the Tsimshean Tribe of Metlakatla, AK.

**Ali Hamade, PhD** currently serves as the Environmental Public Health Program Manager in the Alaska Section of Epidemiology. The program works with state, federal, and tribal partners to assess and educate about the health hazards of chemical exposures, and to develop intervention strategies to reduce or eliminate chemical exposures from air, water, soil, and food. Ali received his Doctorate (PhD) in Environmental Toxicology from the University of California, Irvine.

Subsequently, he performed air quality health effects research at Johns Hopkins University, where he also trained in the risk sciences. He then transitioned to work on human health risk assessment and hazard identification of chemical contaminants at a consulting company, before joining the State of Alaska in 2012. Since 2012, his work has included a collaborative Alaska state-wide efforts to assess the potential risks associated with contaminants in Alaska seafood. Ali has also provided health education and outreach about contaminants in fish at community meetings, health care providers, and conferences. He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Toxicology.

**Sally (Sarah) Hanson, MD** attended the Medical College of Virginia for medical school and completed her Ob/Gyn residency training at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. She has a particular interest in the health care of women in developing and under-resourced settings. She currently works domestically with the US Public Health Service at Alaskan Native Medical Center in Anchorage and with Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest. Recently she spent time with the Indian Health Service on the Navajo reservation in the South West. Additionally, she is involved with family planning and HIV projects both in the US and abroad. Internationally, she currently works with Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) and Surgeons Overseas, with recent maternal health projects in Southern Sudan and India. In the past, she has worked internationally with HIV/AIDS public health programs in South Africa and Uganda, emergency Obstetric care in Honduras and Costa Rica, and evidence-based Obstetric education in Thailand with the WHO. She has husband who is very supportive of her frequent travels! They recently had a baby girl in August.

**Roald Helgesen, MS, BA** is Chief Executive Officer and Administrator of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. In his role, he oversees the statewide Alaska Native health services, including the tertiary and specialty care hospital at the Alaska Native Medical Center, environmental health and engineering, community health and business support services that serve more than 143,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Alaska.

Prior to joining the Consortium, Mr. Helgesen held several positions of progressive responsibility in the Alaska Tribal Health System. Early in his career, he also provided direct health care services as an emergency medical technician.

Mr. Helgesen grew up in Sitka and is an enrolled Tribal member with Sitka Tribe of Alaska and Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of Alaska Anchorage with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. While earning his Master of Science degree in Health Care Administration from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, he also earned the department's award for excellence in graduate education. Mr. Helgesen is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Healthcare Financial Management Association. He also serves on the Alaska Tribal Health System Directors committee of the Alaska Native Health Board, the executive committee of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association, and steering committees for Recover Alaska and Healthy Alaskans 2020.

**Thomas Hennessy, MD, MPH** is the Director of the Arctic Investigations Program, which is CDC's infectious disease field station in Anchorage, Alaska. Dr. Hennessy joined the US Public Health Service in 1990 as a family physician on the Navajo Indian Reservation. He has been with CDC since 1994 and has lived in Alaska since 1998. He is a graduate of Antioch College, the Mayo Medical School and the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

**Nelson Isada, MD** works as a practicing perinatologist (high-risk pregnancy consultant) in Anchorage at Providence Hospital. His parents moved to the US after World War 2 and met at the University of Michigan (mother, Tagalog, from Davao with family names of Manuel and Marfori; father, Visayan, from Dao, Capiz, Panay with family names Mijares and Isada/Ysada). Dr Isada grew up in Buffalo, New York and completed programs in internal medicine, obstetrics & gynecology, maternal-fetal medicine and medical genetics. He is married to Kimberly and has a

homeschooled teenage son (Matthew). Dr. Isada moved to Alaska in 1996 and lives in south Anchorage. He has a brother (infectious disease specialist) in Cleveland and a sister (financial analyst) outside of New York City. He is interested in World War 2 military history and historical board gaming.

**Desiree Jackson, RD, LD** is Tlingit Indian; her family originates from Southeast Alaska. She is a registered dietitian who specializes in Alaska Native Traditional Diet. Currently she works as the Nutrition Research Program Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Her research includes designing and implementing interventions based on how to healthily incorporate Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations package foods and traditional Alaska Native foods into the everyday diet. She has been an Adjunct Professor teaching various courses including Survey of Alaska Native Diet at both the University of Alaska Anchorage and Fairbanks campuses for the past six years and is co-author of the Traditional Food Guide for Alaska Native Cancer Survivors. Her most recent work involves the creation of “The Store Outside Your Door” program and producing regional webisodes across the state of Alaska that highlight seasonal plants and traditional foods.

**Estrella “Star” Lee, MA** has been in the field of education for more than 10 years serving in a variety of roles including teacher, coordinator, trainer, and manager. During her career she has worked with child care programs, school districts, universities, and with Parents as Teachers, an evidence-based home visiting model, in both urban and rural Alaska. She has a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Arts in Professional Communication with special emphasis on Early Education. She is a certified Parent Educator and certified trainer of the Life Skills Progression: Outcome and Family Intervention Planning Tool through Parents as Teachers National Center. Ms. Lee currently serves as RurAL CAP’s Parents as Teachers Manager, overseeing all aspects of program management for 18 home-visiting programs/sites across the state of Alaska.

**Rachel Kerford Lescher, MD** is the pediatric endocrinologist at Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC). She completed her undergraduate degree in International Studies and her medical degree at University of Missouri-Columbia in central Missouri. She completed her residency in pediatrics at University of California-Irvine in southern California and her pediatric endocrinology fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis. She has been at ANMC since September of 2011, where she treats children with diabetes and endocrine-related medical problems.

**Stephanie Massay, MPH, MT (ASCP)** is a certified Medical Technologist with a Masters in Public Health. Ms. Massay has 15 years of public health practice experience and currently works for the Alaska Division of Public Health in the Section of Epidemiology with the Alaska Immunization Program as the Training and Education Manager.

**Joe McLaughlin, MD, MPH** is the State Epidemiologist for Alaska and the Chief of the Alaska Section of Epidemiology. He began his career in Alaska as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2001. After completing his two-year fellowship with CDC, he was hired on with the Alaska Section of Epidemiology in 2003. He completed his medical school training at the University of Minnesota, a Master’s Degree in Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University, and residency training in Preventive Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine. He is currently the President-Elect of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE). He is also an Assistant Professor with the University of Alaska’s Master’s in Public Health Program, a member of the Delta Omega National Public Health Honorary Society, and a recipient of the “Rising Star Award” by the American College of Preventive Medicine. As an epidemiologist in Alaska, he has led numerous outbreak investigations, published a number of peer reviewed journal articles on various medical topics, and has been an invited speaker at national and international conferences. His recreational interests include whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, mountain biking, mountaineering, paragliding, and backcountry skiing.

**Doug Modig, Cultural Consultant**, is a Tsimshian of the Eagle Clan. He was born and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska. Professionally, Doug has worked with Native peoples since the early 70s. He is trained nationally in the drug courts initiatives and for Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT). Doug is a longtime advocate for people taking personal responsibility for their actions and this helped begin what has become known as the Alaska Sobriety Movement.

**Amy Modig** works for the Rural Alaska Community Action Program in the Growing Up Tobacco-Free in Alaska Project. She focuses on tobacco prevention with 23 Head Starts and up to 15 AmeriCorps BIRCH Members; both programs are scattered over Alaska. She is a grandmother and a Deg Hit'an Athabascan and lives in Anchorage.

**Stephanie Monahan** serves as the Executive Director for the All Alaska Pediatric Partnership and works to advance pediatric health priorities through innovative and cross-agency collaboratives to drive change and ensure that Alaska's children reach their full potential. Previously, Stephanie was the Director of Development for the Children's Hospital at Providence working to secure needed resources to enhance care within the hospital. The families she connected with, often experiencing complex or chronic health conditions, shared many insights into the complex and fragmented system of care in which they tried to navigate.

**Kami Moore BSPH, BSE**, works as a project coordinator for the Prevention Project at the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Kami graduated from Oregon State University and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in both Health Promotion and Health Behavior, and Education. After graduating in 2009 she came to Alaska and served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with the Prevention Project at ANDVSA. During her year of service she fell in the love with the beauty of Juneau and decided to make it her permanent home. In addition to working for ANDVSA she is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health through the University of Alaska, Anchorage. In her downtime, Kami enjoys spending time with friends, being outdoors, and watching college football and is an avid Oregon Duck fan.

**Rebekah Morisse, BSN, MPH** is the Unit Manager for the Perinatal & Early Childhood Health at the State of Alaska Division of Public Health. As a Perinatal Nurse Consultant, she administers the Alaska Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program. Rebekah previously worked as a clinic and program manager for the Municipality of Anchorage Reproductive Health Clinic and was also a public health nurse home visitor in Wisconsin. She has also worked as a Registered Nurse in the hospital setting. Rebekah has a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and a Master's Degree in Public Health.

**Kelly Murphy RN, MSN, IBCLC** has been involved with the Nutaqsiivik Program since 1996 starting as a field nurse and transitioned to a Clinical Coordinator in 2011. Kelly is active in the Alaska Breastfeeding Coalition, she is a volunteer provider at Brother Francis Shelter, as well as a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate for neglected and/or abused children in Alaska. She is a mother, grandmother and an avid fisherperson.

**Neil J. Murphy, MD** is a full time clinical OB/GYN at the Alaska Native Medical Center and works in the Southcentral OB/GYN Department.

Dr. Murphy is Board Certified in both Obstetrics and Gynecology as well as in Family Medicine. He was the OB/GYN Chief Clinical Consultant for the Indian Health Service from 2000 – 2008 and worked as a Family Physician in rural Indian Health settings Bethel and Sitka, Alaska from 1985 - 1990. Dr. Murphy has worked as an OB/GYN in an urban Indian Health setting at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage, Alaska since 1993. He is currently a staff OB/GYN employed by a tribal non-profit corporation, the Southcentral Foundation, at the Anchorage Primary Care Center. Dr. Murphy still makes regular trips to rural Alaska for outreach clinics.

Dr. Murphy is a past President of the International Union for Circumpolar Health and the Co-Chair of the 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Circumpolar Health in Novosibirsk, Siberia and is also past President of the American Society for Circumpolar Health and a past Scientific Editor for the

International Journal of Circumpolar Health. Dr. Murphy was a Senior Editor for the 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Circumpolar Health Proceedings.

Dr. Murphy participates in research through the Southcentral Foundation Research Program and the Arctic Investigations Program in conjunction with CDC. His research interests are: glucose intolerance in Native Peoples, the impact of the human papilloma virus vaccine, and maternal and infant mortality.

**Josephine Oke, RN, MPH** has a Master of Public Health degree from University of Washington in 2012. Her emphasis of study was Maternal Child Health. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Woman's University in 1990, and worked as a public health nurse with the City of Dallas in Texas 2003 – 2006.

In November 2006, she was hired to manage Public Health Nursing program by Maniilaq Association in Kotzebue, a position she still holds. As the immunization coordinator for the Northwest Arctic region, she collaborated on a special project with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Immunization program to raise childhood immunization coverage rates of children and adolescents in Maniilaq region.

**Marilyn Pierce-Bulger, FNP, CNM, MN** is a certified nurse-midwife and family nurse practitioner with over 30 years experience providing care and creating services tailored to the unique needs of the Alaska Native population. She has expertise working with high social risk women and designed a nationally-recognized infant mortality reduction project for the Alaska Native Medical Center (Nutaqsiivik.) She currently works part time as a midwife for Southcentral Foundation Primary Care, is a consultant working on the National Institutes of Health SIDS reduction effort (**Healthy Native Babies**) that targets northern Alaska Native/American Indian communities, and is the founder of and medical liaison for the Anchorage Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Diagnostic Team. She is a former member of the State of Alaska Maternal & Infant Mortality Committee and continues to seek respectful and responsive strategies to reduce the risk for sudden unexpected infant deaths.

**Cheryl Prince, PhD, MPH, MSN** is a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Epidemiologist for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. For 5 years prior to moving to Alaska, she was a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) contractor and epidemiology consultant serving as the project coordinator for the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Enhanced Flu Outreach Project, and mentor in the MCH Epidemiology Field Program. Just prior to retiring from CDC after serving for 28 years as an officer in the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Dr. Prince had been a Program Manager for PRAMS for 2 years and the State MCH Epidemiologist assigned by CDC to Hawaii for 9 years. Dr. Prince has a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an MPH from Emory University, an MS in Nursing from the University of Colorado and a BSN from the State University of NY at Buffalo.

**Katie Reilly, MPH** began her public health career in 2004 as a community health educator with the U.S. Peace Corps in Tanzania, East Africa. She came to Alaska in May 2011 after earning her Masters of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to moving to Alaska, her public health experience included international HIV/AIDS prevention education and advocacy in Tanzania; urban substance abuse research in New York City; and a rural intimate partner violence social norms assessment in Chatham County North Carolina. Katie has worked as a Research Associate for the UAA Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies and as the Health Education Manager with the American Lung Association in Alaska. Currently, she serves as the Adolescent Health Project Coordinator with the State of Alaska's Section of Women's, Children's and Family Health. Katie's public health goals include advocating for health equity and focusing on the social determinants of health to address the complex public health challenges of today.

**Taija Koogei Revels, BS**, *Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium*

Taija Koogei Revels is an enrolled member of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska. Her hometown is Juneau, AK and her ancestral roots are from Hoonah, AK. Taija belongs to the Kaagwaataan Tlingit clan. She has worked in tribal health since entering her undergraduate program in 2007. Since then she has worked in the fields of sexual health, domestic violence and suicide prevention, with a special focus on Native youth and LGBT youth. She received her bachelors of science in Women's Studies and Pre-Medical studies from Portland State University in 2011. In 2012 she joined the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium HIV/STD Program Services as a Research Associate, where she works on research projects on adapting evidence-based interventions for the Alaska Native and American Indian populations in Alaska and across the US; and is the editor of [iknowmine.org](http://iknowmine.org), a comprehensive Alaskan youth wellness website. She is looking forward to continuing in the field of youth sexual health, lightening fast advances in social media and health, and increasing her skills as a researcher.

**Denise Rose, MSN, NNP-BC** received her BSN from the University of Alaska. Her Master's of Science in Nursing with a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) focus was obtained through the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. She has been an NNP in Alaska for 30 years. Denise is a Regional NRP and STABLE instructor.

**Kerre Shelton, BA** has been the Public Health Director since May 16, 2013. In this role, Kerre is responsible for managing the operations of the Division to include strategic planning, results based budgeting, human resources, policy development, Governor's Office liaison, training, public information direction, and numerous special projects (immunization, worksite wellness, emergency preparedness, continuity of operations, etc). She also directly supervises the Section Chiefs for six of the Division's nine sections. Prior to her appointment as director, she held the position of deputy director for approximately three years, responsible for division operations and planning.

She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Public Communications with a minor in cultural anthropology from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Kerre makes her home in Eagle River, Alaska with her husband and nine-year-old son.

**Ros Singleton, MD, MPH** received her medical degree from Northwestern Medical School, Chicago, completed her Pediatric residency at Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, and her MPH from Loma Linda University. Ros started her career as a pediatrician on the Navajo reservation. Since 1988, she has worked as a pediatrician at the Alaska Native Medical Center. She is the Medical Consultant of the Immunization Program for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and a guest researcher with the Arctic Investigations Program – Centers for Disease Control. Ros has conducted research on RSV, Hib, pneumococcal disease and respiratory disease.

**Carmen Springer, MPH** received her Master's of Public Health through Tulane University as part of the Master's International program with the United States Peace Corps. She has been with the Immunization Program for over three years working as both the VacTrAK Manager and Deputy Immunization Program Manager.

**Kaerin Stephens, MA** is the Research Analyst for the Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey (CUBS), a 3-year follow-up survey to the Alaska Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS). Kaerin previously designed and conducted a qualitative evaluation of a National Library of Medicine (NLM) study where doctors at regional hospitals in Alaska used telemedicine technology to assist community health aides in isolated villages to diagnose ear infections correctly and thus prevent the overuse of antibiotics. After her graduate studies at the University of Washington and Case Western Reserve University, Kaerin taught in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alaska in Anchorage from 1995 to 2001. She also served as the outreach coordinator for the PBS Ready to Learn program in Anchorage (2002-06) and the administrative coordinator at Best Beginnings (2009-2013).

**Russ Stevens, BS** has a combined 12 years of experience with the State of Alaska Section of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion in both the heart disease and stroke prevention and obesity prevention and control programs. A former physical education teacher and coach, Russ has expertise in physical activity promotion, worksite health promotion, and is currently the coordinator for early childhood obesity prevention.

**Tara Stiller, BS** is Alutiiq from Old Harbor, Alaska. She is a program associate in the Department of Wellness and Prevention. She has a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Public Health and is continuing her education at the University of Alaska Anchorage studying for her Master's Degree in Public Health with a focus on Childhood Obesity Prevention and Nutrition. It is her passion to support all efforts to decrease and/or eliminate health disparities among her fellow Alaska Native people. She would like to apply her education to develop culturally appropriate and effective health interventions to decrease childhood obesity among Alaska Native children. She will continue working for and with the communities to improve health and hopes to see a cultural revival of our Alaska Native traditional ways of living.

**Elizabeth K. Thorne, MPH** is the Adolescent Health Policy and Assessment Specialist for the Oregon Public Health Division, Liz's work focuses on creating the conditions necessary for young people to be healthy and thrive. Liz conducts statewide surveillance of a broad range of adolescent health issues, and supports the development and evaluation of evidence-based policies, programs and practices that support the healthy development of youth in Oregon.

**Patty Wolf RNC-OB, BSN** is a long time Alaskan arriving in Anchorage as a young child in 1974. She received her nursing degrees from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 1994 and 2010 respectively and has worked as a nurse in the Maternal Child areas for 20 years. Starting out in Mother Baby, Newborn nursery, and the majority of the years focused in the Labor and Delivery area as a floor nurse, clinical supervisor, Assistant Clinical Manager, and a unit manager. Patty maintains a certification in Inpatient Obstetrics. Over the years her love of education also was revealed as an instructor for Basic Life Support (BLS) and Neonatal Resuscitation program (NRP). Pairing her love of education and Maternal Child health Patty joined the team at the Providence Nurse Family Partnership program in January 2013 at its inception.

**Thad Woodard, MD** is a general pediatrician who has practiced in Anchorage since 1980 after serving in Alaska with the Centers for Disease Control as an epidemiologist. He has a special interest in patient education and has produced and hosted a radio program on the Anchorage National Public Radio affiliate KSKA for 15 years that addresses a wide range of health issues on a weekly basis.

**Stephanie Wrightsman-Birch RNC, MPH, MS, FNP** is Alaska's MCH Title V Director and the Section Chief of the Women's, Children's and Family Health Section in the Division of Public Health, Dept. of Health and Social Services. Stephanie joined the Department in 2001 after working nearly 20 years with the Providence Alaska Medical Center in a variety of nursing, management and executive leadership roles. She had the honor of working with a number of family leaders and physicians to help create the Children's Hospital at Providence in 1995 where she was its first Administrator and nurse executive leader for six years. Stephanie holds graduate degrees in Public Health from Loma Linda University and Nursing from the University of Alaska-Anchorage where she also trained as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Stephanie actively practices as an FNP part time in east Anchorage caring for a diverse multicultural population of families and seniors.

**Margaret Young, MPH** has worked as a Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist with the Alaska Division of Public Health since 2007 and currently serves as the MCH Epidemiology Unit Manager. She previously served 2 years as an Applied Epidemiology Fellow with the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, based in the Alaska Division of Public Health. Her primary areas of focus are coordinating the Childhood Understanding Behaviors Survey and analyzing data from the survey, and providing

epidemiology support for programs in the Section of Women's, Children's, and Family Health. She was the co-chair of the Alaska MCH and Immunization Conference planning committee in 2010 and 2012. Ms. Young received her Master's in Public Health with a focus on international health in December 2004.