



The Western Consortium Grand Challenges for Social Work

4th Western Consortium Panelists and Community Organizations

Thank you to our academic and community partners who will be joining us for the 4th Western Consortium for Grand Challenges for Social Work! We look forward to being joined by community members from the **Homelessness Policy Research Institute (HPRI)**, the **IF Project**, the **Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY)**, the **Inchelium Language & Culture Association (ILCA)**, and the **Waimānalo Research Station** with **Ke Kula Nui O Waimānalo**. We also look forward to being joined by our academic partners affiliated with the **University of Southern California Sol Price Center for Social Innovation**, the **Greenspun College of Urban Affairs with University of Nevada, Las Vegas**, the **Utah Criminal Justice Center at the University of Utah College of Social Work**, those with the **University of Washington School of Social Work**, and **Seven Directions A Center for Indigenous Public Health**. Please view panelists' details, and more information about community organizations below. For any questions or comments, please reach out to Sofie Aaron at gcsocialwork@uw.edu

Homelessness Policy Research Institute (HPRI)

Established with support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the Home For Good Funders Collaborative, the Homelessness Policy Research Institute (HPRI) is a collaborative of over one hundred researchers, policymakers, service providers, and experts with lived experience of homelessness that accelerate equitable and culturally informed solutions to homelessness in Los Angeles County by advancing knowledge and fostering transformational partnerships between research, policy and practice.

Millie Brown: My journey to Advocacy began in 2014 when I was accepted into the CSH Speak-Up Advocacy Program, I graduated in 2015 and became a CSH Speak-Up Advocate I began speaking and sharing my Lived Experiences with Childhood Trauma, Homelessness and Domestic Violence. In 2018 I became an Advocate/Member of the Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition through the DWC (downtown women's center) Downtown L.A. Skid Row. I've also had the opportunity to sit on the Board of Directors for Brilliant Corners Non-Profit Organization for 3 years.

Saba Mwine (She/Her/Hers) is the managing director of the Homelessness Policy Research Institute (HPRI), a collaborative of over one hundred researchers, policymakers, service providers and people with lived experience that accelerate equitable and culturally informed solutions to homelessness in Los Angeles County by advancing knowledge and

fostering transformational partnerships between research, policy and practice. Saba has twenty years of experience spearheading housing justice work throughout the nation: measuring access to housing based on race and other protected classes and supporting equity centered collaborative initiatives in the movement to end homelessness. Saba has played numerous roles, from project designer and civil rights investigator, test coordinator to management consultant, racial equity educator and practitioner. In her tenure at the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH), she worked to establish their first racial equity initiatives via fundraising, designing grant programming, developing and delivering transformative learnings, and guiding community initiatives. Saba is a classically trained actor and holds a master's of fine arts in theatre; she is committed to the arts as a tool for healing racial trauma and shaping community spaces. In California and nationally, Saba is a prominent voice in the movement to establish racism and white supremacy culture as the most pervasive and least examined cause and perpetuator of homelessness.

Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY)

NPHY is the most comprehensive service provider for the thousands of homeless youth in Southern Nevada, serving hundreds of youth through core programs and touching the lives of thousands more through outreach each year. NPHY's programs stabilize homeless teens' lives, meeting their immediate needs and providing a safe, supportive environment and a path to self-sufficiency. Through work with homeless youth, NPHY creates productive, healthy adults who contribute to society. Strengthening and complementing the high-quality direct services for homeless youth, NPHY is dedicated to advocating with and for the Las Vegas Valley's homeless youth population and serves as a leader in systems-level efforts to eliminate homelessness among Nevada's youth. For more information or to support our life-changing work for homeless youth, please visit www.nphy.org.

Arash Ghafoori (he/him/his) is the CEO of the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY), steering the organization to become Southern Nevada's foremost homeless youth service provider. With a background spanning policy, academia, and corporate and startup realms, Arash's leadership has propelled NPHY to the forefront of addressing youth homelessness. He advocates fervently for marginalized groups and stands as an influential figure in national and local movements to eradicate youth homelessness. Arash's commitment to driving visionary solutions involves active roles on the Board of Directors of the National Network for Youth, the Advisory Board of National Safe Place, and the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Board. He champions the fusion of public, private, and nonprofit sectors to combat social issues and regularly shares expertise on integrating business practices into nonprofit management at both local and national platforms. His educational journey includes a B.A. in International Relations and Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an M.A. in Economics from

the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Recognized as a “40 Under 40” business trailblazer by Vegas Inc. in 2014, Arash has received prestigious accolades, including the 2016 Executive Leadership Award from National Safe Place, the 2017 Sustainable Leadership Award from Impact NV, and the 2019 HOME Award for outstanding individual contributions to the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care. Most recently, he was selected as a participant in the esteemed 2024 Leadership Las Vegas program, furthering his commitment to fostering impactful change within the community.

Robert R. Ulmer is dean of the UNLV Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. The college is designed to engage a unique collection interdisciplinary students, faculty, and staff to develop original solutions for producing effective urban communities. Ulmer’s work on organizational/community renewal informs and predicts why some cities in today’s headlines have struggled to prepare for and meet the challenges of 21st century living. These challenges include terrorism and other crises, issues of social inequity and race relations, and separate challenges associated with collaboration and engagement.

Conversely, his research also illustrates how effective cities can prepare effectively to meet challenges, manage conflict well, can develop unique community solutions for their challenges, can be transparent and collaborative in decision making, and can promote inclusivity and engagement throughout urban life. He has extensive experiences putting these ideas into practice having worked with the Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the State of Nevada, the City of Las Vegas, as well as many non profit, public, and private companies.

The IF Project

The IF Project is a collaboration of currently- and formerly-incarcerated adults, community partners, and law enforcement focused on holistic intervention and the reduction and prevention of incarceration and recidivism. Our work is inspired by and builds upon people sharing their personal life experiences around incarceration. We envision a world without mass incarceration and the impacts it creates. A world where our communities provide pathways to equitable opportunities, where we are all valued, and are free to explore who we want to become.

Dr. Felisa Bryant brings extensive experience in effective nonprofit management, strategic planning, DE&I, and Board development. Felisa has always been a fighter for individuals who voice has been lost, ignored, or simply just not heard, and endeavors to manage and broaden community resources and support offered to formerly incarcerated individuals returning to the community after incarceration. As a formerly incarcerated individual herself, Felisa knows firsthand that the needs of previously incarcerated women often go

unacknowledged and unmet and stands in a position of responsibility for those coming after her. Currently the Director of Programs for The IF Project, Felisa is skilled in program development and implementation in communities that are least resourced and most stigmatized, providing direct service and outreach to those living within the intersections of homelessness, incarceration, addiction, acute crises, and trauma. Felisa received her PhD from Grand Canyon University and completed her dissertation in June 2021 titled: Formerly Incarcerated Females Perceptions on Their Reentry Transition Back into Society: A Phenomenological Study.

Dr. Emily Salisbury is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Utah Criminal Justice Center at the University of Utah College of Social Work. She is trained as an applied criminologist and focuses her research on correctional policy, risk/needs assessment, and treatment intervention strategies, with a particular focus on system-involved women, gender-responsive practices, and trauma-responsive care. Her research publications have appeared in several top academic journals and edited volumes. As a result of her scholarship on behalf of women, she was awarded the *Marguerite Q. Warren and Ted B. Palmer Differential Intervention Award* from the American Society of Criminology Division on Corrections and Sentencing. Dr. Salisbury is a co-creator of the *Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA)* instruments that were developed through a cooperative agreement with the National Institute of Corrections. The WRNA correctional assessments are specifically designed to focus on the risk, needs, and strengths of system-involved women, and have been implemented in over 80 international and domestic jurisdictions. For five years, she also served as Editor-in-Chief of *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, a top research and policy journal focused on correctional rehabilitation. Lastly, Dr. Salisbury is co-author of the book, *Correctional Counseling and Rehabilitation*, currently in its 10th edition.

Inchelum Language & Culture Association (ILCA)

The mission of the Inchelum Language & Culture Association (ILCA) is to foster and sustain a dynamic community of Salish language speakers whose daily lives are expressed through a commitment to Lakes and Colville culture and a connection to their traditional territories. We work diligently to create new Salish Language speakers and teachers. Our teachers are trained in Second Language Acquisition techniques to ensure our language is retained at the highest levels possible.

Stevey Seymour. Meet Stevey, a fiercely determined member of the Colville Confederated Tribes from the Sn̓ayč̓kstx tribe. Her upbringing in a community declared extinct by the Canadian government fuels her burning passion to rebel against the oppression faced by indigenous peoples. At just 28 years old, she made history as the youngest female elected to the Colville Business Council and has since become the Executive Director of Inchelum Language House. Stevey's impact on her community is undeniable. She and her team at Inchelum Language House have raised millions towards revitalizing the Salish language,

preserving, and sharing cultural knowledge & ways of being. Additionally, she has been instrumental in organizing and growing Sx̣ẉnítkw - Paddle to the Kettle Falls Salmon Ceremony, now in its 9th year. Throughout her successful career, Stevey has had the privilege of learning from some of Indian Country's most impactful community organizers. Her unwavering belief in the power of indigenous languages and cultures to heal and empower communities drives her to inspire others to make positive changes in their own communities.

Dr. Myra Parker (Mandan-Hidatsa-Cree), JD, MPH, PhD) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the University of Washington School of Medicine. She is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes originally from the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota. She also serves as Director of the Seven Direction tribal public health institute, overseeing multiple programs designed to support tribal and urban Indian public health capacity development and serving tribes, urban Indian health centers, and tribal epidemiology centers. Her research focuses on cultural adaptation of evidence-based interventions among American Indian and Alaska Native communities. She has partnered with Colville Tribes on various research and evaluation projects for over 10 years.

Maya Magarati (Indigenous Magar from Nepal's Himalayas), PhD is a research assistant professor in the Center for the Study of Health and Risk Behaviors, housed in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the University of Washington (UW) School of Medicine. She also serves as the Associate Director of Community Collaboration in Research in Seven Directions A Center for Indigenous Public Health as well as a preceptor for Nepal with UW Indigenous Wellness Research Institute's LUNA International Indigenous Health Research Training Program. She has 13 years' experience in community-based participatory research (CBPR) with diverse Indigenous communities including several Tribal Colleges and Universities and Colville Tribes. She is the Project Lead on the Tribal Opioid Overdose Prevention project. Her Indigenous equity-centered, community-partnered and cultural strength-centered scholarship addresses sexual health, community engagement, global Indigenous environmental and behavioral health specifically tied to ecological trauma, resilience and traditional ecological knowledge, and immigrant and refugee cancer and wellbeing.

Facilitating Community Workshop Conversations

Dr. Michael S. Spencer Ph.D., M.S.S.W., (Kānaka Maoli) is the Ballmer Endowed Dean and Professor of Social Work at the University of Washington School of Social Work. He is also the director of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Oceania Affairs at the UW Indigenous Wellness Research Institute (IWRI) and a UW alumnus. His research examines health equity

and wellness for populations of color through community-based participatory research (CBPR) methods. He teaches courses on diversity and social justice and is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare (AASWSW) and the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR).

Ke Kula Nui O Waimānalo

We are a grassroots community based non-profit 501(c)3 looking to help our community become self-sustainable in every way. From the mountain to the sea, the `āina and kai can provide for the community as it did years ago. KKNOW has built a list of programs to help the native community to be come more self-sustainable. From replenishing limu and the marine ecosystem, to home aquaponcis systems providing the household with food / medicine and ensuring ethically responsible community research our program list grows to service those needs that long to be satisfied.

Our vision: Kūkulu Kaiāulu (Kūkulu – To build, as a house; to construct, erect, establish, organize, set up; to put up, as mast and sail; to found, as a society; to establish, as a name or dynasty. Kaiāulu – Community, neighborhood, village). **Our Mission:** Provide a community of practice through collaboration of Kānaka to promote strong and healthy ahupua‘a.

Ilima Ho-Lastimosa. A strong proponent of food sovereignty and sustainability, she is passionate about giving Pacific Island communities the tools, knowledge and skills they need to grow food in their backyards. To that end, Ilima became a certified Master Gardener and an aquaponics expert, with which she has spent the last six years teaching aquaponics throughout the Pacific and Pacific Northwest. She received her BA in Hawaiian Studies and MSW from the University of Hawai‘i. Presently employed as the Community Coordinator for the Waimānalo Research Station, Ilima works with numerous school-aged children through partnerships with nearby schools. As the founder of God’s Country Waimānalo, Ilima has & continues to offer programs to the Waimānalo and Native Hawaiian Communities.