



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION

to End Health Disparities



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Pacific and Southwest Regional Health Equity Council: New Priorities, Members, and Leaders Focus Efforts on Reducing Health Disparities

The Pacific and Southwest Regional Health Equity Council (PSWRHEC), which recently held its Annual Review and Planning Session, announces its new membership and activities. **PSWRHEC is the Pacific and Southwest branch of the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA), the first national movement to target the elimination of health disparities and move the nation towards health equity.**

The NPA is a multi-sector community- and partnership-driven effort that is implemented at the regional and state levels by 10 Regional Health Equity Councils (RHECs). PSWRHEC represents Region IX, which encompasses Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau.

PSWRHEC (also known as RHEC IX) is comprised of leaders from diverse backgrounds whose work serves as a catalyst for health equity; the 29 volunteer voting members – leaders who represent academia, research, health care, state and local government, civic and nonprofit organizations, and private industry – are assisted by *ad hoc* members and emerging health professionals. **The council's mission is to eliminate health and healthcare disparities and achieve the highest possible level of health for all communities through the education and mobilization of leaders, partners, policy makers, and community stakeholders.**

PSWRHEC's activities are coordinated by three co-chairs and are directed by six committees—Behavioral Health, Funding and Sustainability, Health and Health Care Disparities Textbook, Influencing Health Policies, Partnerships and Collaborations, and Pathways to Healthcare Careers—in the following **priority areas**:

- Plan and develop a **textbook on health and healthcare disparities/strategies for achieving health equity** for publication
- Provide broader **awareness of innovative healthcare professional training**
- **Disseminate information about access to quality health care and support patient education**





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- Assess the state of behavioral health and **influence behavioral services and policies** to ensure equity
- Create an infrastructure enabling PSWRHEC to **receive funding from various sources**
- Plan and implement **community outreach and education programs** to reduce health disparities and promote health

In addition, collaborative work is ongoing in focus areas of refugee health, access to quality health care, and community assessment of underserved communities.

Congratulations to the newest members elected to join the PSWRHEC; they are:

- Jei Africa, PsyD, MSCP, CSTC-V—San Mateo County Health System, CA
- Eboni Anderson, MA, MEd, MSW—Arizona State University, AZ
- Olivia Catolico, PhD, RN, CNL, BC—Dominican University of California, CA
- Jin Young Lee, MA—Center for Age-Friendly Excellence, CA
- Sahana Kiron Magal, MD, MA—San Francisco State University, CA
- Patrick Naranjo, MA—University of Nevada Las Vegas, NV
- Lisa Marie Pacheco, MSN, RN—University of Nevada Las Vegas, NV
- Paul Strauss, MPA—Hawaii State Department of Health, HI
- Qing Wu, MD, ScD—University of Nevada Las Vegas, NV

Congratulations to those members elected as co-chairs of the PSWRHEC for the coming year:

- Dr. Darlene Yee-Melichar, EdD, FGSA, FAGHE—Professor and Coordinator, Gerontology Program, San Francisco State University
- Connie Chan Robison—Executive Director, Center for Collaborative Planning, Public Health Institute
- April A. Fernandez, MS—Chief, Office of Binational Border Health, California Department of Public Health

To learn more about the efforts of PSWRHEC, visit <http://region9.npa-rhec.org>.

The National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA) is a national movement with the mission to improve the effectiveness of programs that target the elimination of health disparities through coordination of leaders, partners, and stakeholders committed to action. The NPA relies on partners from the federal, regional, state, tribal, and local levels working across sectors to promote health equity and address the social determinants of health. Federal partnerships are led by the [Federal Interagency Health Equity Team](#), and regional partnerships are led by 10 [Regional Health Equity Councils](#). To learn more visit <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/>.



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