



National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Contact**

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### **Health Inequity the Focus of the National Association of County and City Health Officials' 2016 Annual Conference in Phoenix, July 19-21**

**Washington, DC, July 15, 2016** — As the nation continues to witness an escalation of police violence in communities of color, most recently in cities such as Ferguson, MO, Cincinnati, OH, New York City, Baltimore, MD, and Falcon Heights, MN and the protests that followed, it is imperative that public health engages in critical dialogue on its proper role. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is leading the public health approach to reducing violence and health inequity in our communities. This year's annual conference theme is Cultivating a Culture of Health Equity. The meeting's 100 sharing sessions and four plenaries will focus on reducing and eliminating the root causes of inequity and disparity in the distribution of illness, disease, injury and death in communities across the country.

NACCHO has a longstanding policy recognizing intentional injury, or violence as a public health issue and calls on local health departments to work to protect and improve community safety in coordination and collaboration with local, state, and national efforts. At the NACCHO Annual 2015 in Kansas City, MO, NACCHO led a discussion on Police and Community Relations: How Local Public Health Can Help Bridge the Gap. Presenters included Leana S. Wen, MD, MSc, FAAEM, Health Commissioner, Baltimore City, Jasmine D. Graves, MPH, Special Assistant, Office of the Commissioner Associate, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Jeffrey Blackwell, Chief of Police, Cincinnati, OH. Join us at NACCHO's 2016 Annual Conference in Phoenix on July 19-21 as experts discuss strategies to reduce harmful public health outcomes resulting from health inequity. Find the full agenda at <http://nacchoannual.org>. NACCHO encourages the media to join

the conversation and monitor sessions as they happen on Twitter by following @NACCHOalerts and the conference hashtag, #NA16.

**WHEN/WHERE:** July 19–21, Sheraton Grand Phoenix, 340 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Phoenix, Ariz.

**Plenary Session 1: *Collaborative Pathways for Advancing the Future of Local Public Health***

Tuesday, July 19, 3:00–5:30 PM MST

Room: Valley of the Sun

**Moderator - LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH,** Executive Director, NACCHO, Washington, District of Columbia

**Speakers**

- **John Auerbach, MBA,** Associate Director for Policy, Office of the Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, Ga.
- **Karen DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc,** Acting Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, District of Columbia
- **Leandris Liburd, PhD, MPH, MA,** Associate Director, Minority Health & Health Equity, CDC, Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. Auerbach will provide a general overview of CDC's 6|18 Initiative, CDC's framework for public health-healthcare collaboration, discuss the role that LHDs can play in advancing the initiative and share successes-to-date from CDC and Medicaid's perspective in implementing a select number of the targeted interventions. Dr. DeSalvo will provide an overview of the version 3.0 of the open government plan and explore how local health departments can help further HHS strategies. Dr. Liburd will focus on the importance of monitoring and addressing health equity and the necessity of establishing an operational framework within local health departments to effectively address social determinants of health and pursue health equity.

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**Plenary Session 2 - *Building Power for Health Equity***

Wednesday, July 20, 8:00–10:00 AM MST

Room: Valley of the Sun

**Keynote Speaker: Anthony Iton, MD, JD, MPH,** Senior Vice President of Healthy Communities, The California Endowment, Oakland, Calif.

**Speakers**

- **Kathleen Grassi, RD, MPH,** Director, Merced County Public Health Department, Merced, Calif.
- **Elsa M. Jimenez, MPH,** Interim Director of Health, Monterey County Health Department, Salinas, Calif.
- **Melissa Jones, MPA,** Executive Director, Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative, Oakland, Calif.

Dr. Anthony Iton is a leader of the health equity movement, having significantly spread awareness of and instigated action in response to the fact that zip codes are more important than genetic codes when it comes to health. Prior to joining The California Endowment, Dr. Iton served as the Director

and Health Officer for the Alameda County Public Health Department, where he oversaw the implementation of a strategic plan for advancing health equity. At The Endowment, Dr. Iton leads the place-based aspects of Building Healthy Communities, a billion-dollar, 14-site, place-based health improvement effort targeting comprehensive local and statewide policy and systems change. During the panel, Dr. Iton will highlight the Building Healthy Communities theory of change and lessons learned and share his thoughts on how local health departments can advance a health equity practice. He'll focus on the following as they relate to local health departments:

- Understanding and addressing structural racism;
- Changing the narrative about health and health equity;
- Supporting power-building to address the roots causes of health inequities;
- Growing multi-sector partnerships for policy and systems change; and
- Institutionalizing commitment to health equity across all systems.

Dr. Iton will be joined by three panelist who will describe how they are advancing health equity. Kathleen Grassi, Director, Merced County Department of Public Health, will how to advance a health equity agenda in a rural, conservative context by lifting up the cross-sector, community-centered efforts to improve access to vital health-promoting infrastructure in divested parts of the County. Elsa Jimenez, Interim Director, Monterey County Health Department, will describe the evolution of local health department efforts to advance Health in All Policies thinking and action and drive a multisector, community-driven approach based on the principles of Governing for Racial Equity. Melissa Jones, Executive Director of the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities, will share the importance of organizing local health departments regionally to advance health equity.

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### **Plenary Session 3 - *Achieving Health Equity - A Public Health Approach***

Thursday, July 21, 8:00–9:30 AM MST

Room: Valley of the Sun

**Moderator - Richard Hofrichter**, Senior Director, Health Equity, NACCHO, Washington, District of Columbia

### **Keynote Speakers**

- **Ed Ehlinger, MD, MSPH**, Minnesota Health Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health, St. Paul, Minn.
- **Camara P. Jones, MD, MPH, PhD**, Senior Fellow, Satcher Health Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga.
- **Ron Sims**, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and former Executive of Martin Luther King, Jr. County, Mount Baker, Wash.

This panel will explore different approaches and perspectives for tackling the root causes of health inequity in public health practice. Panelists will address the policies, procedures and unnoticed public narratives that perpetuate health inequities and identify opportunities for more intensive, coordinated action with allies.

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## **Plenary Session 4 - *Slow Violence, Health Inequity and the Future Well-Being of Communities***

Thursday, July 21, 4:00–5:00 PM MST

Room: Valley of the Sun

**Moderator - Mindy Thompson Fullilove, MS, MD, Hon AIA**, Professor of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences and Psychiatry, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.

### **Keynote Speakers**

- **Linda Rudolph, MD, MPH**, Director of the Center for Climate Change and Health, Public Health Institute, Berkeley, Calif.
- **Donald Warne, MD, MPH**, Chair, Department of Public Health, North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D.

This panel will focus on the ways in which health inequity, which often takes decades to manifest its full impact, is a form of slow violence, whereby whole communities have devastation visited upon them. Dr. Linda Rudolph will discuss the specific threats related to those populations made most vulnerable and the challenge posed by inertia, denial and inattention to those most at risk. Dr. Fullilove will talk about the implications of gentrification, redlining, home foreclosure and other forms of dispossession and historical trauma that create health crises for whole communities. Dr. Warne will talk about consequences resulting from the dispossession of American Indian populations over the decades, including the extraordinary historical trauma and its effects on entire populations.

**How to Attend:** Members of the media may receive complimentary registration to attend NACCHO Annual or select sessions. Find the full agenda at <http://nacchoannual.org>. For more information, or to set up an interview with any of the above speakers, please contact NACCHO's Director of Media and Public Relations, Theresa Spinner, at 202-783-5551 or [tspinner@naccho.org](mailto:tspinner@naccho.org).

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### **ABOUT NACCHO**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is the national nonprofit association representing the approximately 2,800 local health departments (LHDs) in the United States, including city, county, metropolitan, district and tribal agencies. NACCHO's vision is health, equity and security for all people in their communities through public health policies and services. NACCHO's mission is to be a leader, partner, catalyst and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease and improve the quality and length of all lives.