

# CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHAC)

April 26-28, 2022

## Speaker Biographies

### CDC and HRSA Welcome and Updates

**Jonathan Mermin, MD, MPH** is the Director of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), and a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service. He oversees the nation's efforts to prevent HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis. These infections affect millions of Americans and cause tens of thousands of deaths each year. NCHHSTP focuses on high impact prevention strategies that are cost-effective, scalable, and grounded in the latest research. These strategies save lives, save money, reduce health disparities, and protect the health of all Americans. From 2009-2013, Dr. Mermin directed CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, overseeing the agency's HIV efforts in the United States. He previously served as Director of CDC-Kenya and HHS Public Health Attaché for the U.S. Embassy from 2006-2009, and as Director of CDC-Uganda from 1999-2006. In Uganda, he oversaw implementation of the first antiretroviral treatment program funded by CDC outside of the United States, gaining practical experience for PEPFAR and supporting widespread HIV treatment efforts in developing countries. Dr. Mermin began his career at CDC in 1995 as an EIS officer with the Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch. He completed an internal medicine residency at San Francisco General Hospital and a preventive medicine residency at CDC and the California Department of Health Services. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Stanford University School of Medicine, and received his MPH from Emory University. He has co-authored more than 200 scientific articles and book chapters. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at Emory University School of Public Health.

**Laura Cheever, MD, ScM** is the associate administrator for the HIV/AIDS Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Dr. Cheever previously served as the deputy associate administrator and chief medical officer of the HIV/AIDS Bureau, responsible for leading the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and HRSA's programming for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. She has also provided national leadership for HIV/AIDS care and treatment, including the development of federal guidelines for HIV care. Dr. Cheever joined HRSA in 1999 as the chief of the HIV Education Branch where she was responsible for providing HIV/AIDS clinical education and training for the nation's health care providers. Before joining HRSA, Dr. Cheever was an assistant professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University. She is committed to serving the HIV population and volunteers at the Bartlett Clinic for HIV Care at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Dr. Cheever received her medical degree from Brown University and is board certified in infectious diseases.

**Kathleen Ethier, PhD** is the Director of CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Dr. Ethier brings a wealth of public health experience and leadership in addressing health issues of youth and women, with a focus on HIV, STDs, and teen pregnancy, as well as supporting program improvement, strategic programs, and monitoring and evaluation. She most recently served as the Director of CDC's Program Performance and Evaluation Office, where she contributed to advancing CDC program strategy, performance measurement, and evaluation. Prior to joining CDC, Dr. Ethier spent six years on the research faculty at Yale University working on studies of HIV, STDs, and unplanned pregnancy prevention among women and adolescents. In 1999, she joined CDC as a Senior Scientist in the Division of STD Prevention to lead the development and evaluation of interventions to prevent HIV, STDs, and teen pregnancy. She has served in a variety of leadership and management roles at CDC, including Acting Director of the Financial Management Office and the Division of Oral Health, as well as lead for the Adolescent Health Goal Team. Dr. Ethier's research has included psychosocial, behavioral, organizational and clinical factors related to women's health, maternal health and adolescent sexual and reproductive health. She has authored or co-authored numerous articles and book chapters for

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peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Ethier earned her PhD in social psychology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

**Demetre Daskalakis, MD** is CDC's Director of the Division of HIV Prevention (DHP) in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP). He guides the Division in providing national leadership and support for HIV epidemiologic research and surveillance of the behaviors and determinants of HIV transmission and disease progression, and for prevention research and the development, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based HIV prevention programs that serve people affected by or at risk for HIV. Dr. Daskalakis began his career as an attending physician at Bellevue Hospital in New York City, New York (NYC), where he spearheaded several public health programs focused on community HIV testing and prevention. He has since served in a number of healthcare and public health capacities in NYC. Most recently, he served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Disease Control at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Daskalakis directed the public health laboratory and all infectious disease control programs for NYC, including HIV, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, vaccine-preventable diseases, and general communicable diseases. In addition to his leadership in infectious disease control efforts, he served as the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene incident commander during the measles outbreak of 2018-2019, as well as the 2020 COVID-19 public health emergency. Dr. Daskalakis received his medical education from the NYU School of Medicine and completed his residency training at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. He also completed clinical infectious disease fellowships at the Brigham and Women's Massachusetts General Hospital combined program and received a Master of Public Health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Daskalakis is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert in HIV prevention and has focused much of his career on the treatment and prevention of HIV and other STIs as an activist physician with a focus on LGBTQIA+ communities.

**Carolyn Wester, MD, MPH** is the Director of the Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH) in CDC's National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. Prior to joining DVH, Dr. Wester served as the Medical Director for HIV, STDs, and Viral Hepatitis at the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH), a position she has held since 2008. During her tenure at TDH, Dr. Wester led the daily operations for the TDH section tasked with the prevention and control of HIV, STDs, and viral hepatitis throughout Tennessee. Under her leadership, this section successfully expanded partnerships and executed cross-program strategic plans. In particular, Dr. Wester launched and expanded the Viral Hepatitis program, integrating it with the HIV/STD section; doubled funding and tripled staff levels; expanded viral hepatitis surveillance, testing, prevention and treatment capacity across the state; and established an HIV/HCV outbreak response plan. Prior to this role, she held positions as a Research Associate at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Director of Urogynecology and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery section at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, and an attending physician at the Rush Center for Women's Medicine, Chicago. Dr. Wester has conducted research, serving as the principal investigator or co-investigator of several NIH-funded research studies in Botswana, including a prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV study, the country's first randomized controlled trial. She has authored or co-authored a myriad of articles and given numerous presentations on HIV, viral hepatitis, STDs, and TB and on such topics as syringe services, women's and minority health, and opioids. She received her Medical Degree from Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine, and a Master of Public Health, Qualitative Methods, from Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She holds an adjunct faculty appointment in the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Department of Medicine.

**Leandro Mena, MD, MPH** is the Director of the Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) in CDC's National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP).

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Dr. Mena is a clinician-researcher and public health expert in the prevention and clinical management of STIs, as well as HIV, and is fluent in Spanish and English. Throughout his career, he has studied STI transmission and culturally competent quality health services in racial/ethnic minority groups, as well as among LGBTQ people. Dr. Mena was founding chair of the Department of Population Health Science at the University of Mississippi Medical Center's (UMMC) John D. Bower School of Population Health where he served as a professor of population health science and as a professor of medicine. In addition, Dr. Mena was founder and co-chair of the UMMC Center for Gender and Sexual Minority Health from 2017 to 2021, and served as medical director of UMMC's TEAM clinic – the first multidisciplinary academic clinic serving LGBTQ people in Mississippi – from 2020-2021. Prior to joining CDC, Dr. Mena served as the STD medical director for the state of Mississippi from 2005 to 2021, and directed the Center for HIV/AIDS Research, Education, and Policy at the Myrlie Evers-Williams Institute for Elimination of Health Disparities from 2016 to 2021. Dr. Mena also served as the medical director of Jackson, Mississippi's public STD clinic between 2003 to 2021 and co-founded Open Arms Healthcare Center – Mississippi's first LGBTQ clinic – in 2013. Dr. Mena obtained a Doctor in Medicine from the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henriquez Ureña in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, and a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Louisiana State University Health Science Center in New Orleans. He is board certified in infectious diseases and is a Fellow in the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

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## Panel 1: Strategizing an approach to providing comprehensive STI services

**Moderator: Robert McDonald, MD, MPH, LCDR, USPHS** is an Internal Medicine and Pediatrics trained physician on the Case Based Surveillance team of the CDC's Division of STD Prevention (DSTD). His areas of focus include adult and congenital syphilis, as well as the global emergence of antimicrobial resistant gonorrhea. Prior to joining DSTD, he was a CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer (EISO) field assignee at the New York State Department of Health.

**Thomas Dobbs, MD** is the State Health Officer for Mississippi. He is an infectious diseases physician, working at the intersection of public health and patient care, both domestically and internationally, with specific expertise in HIV and tuberculosis. Dr. Dobbs has served in other public health roles, including district health officer and state epidemiologist in MS. Dr. Dobbs also serves as an Associate Professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, teaching epidemiology at the School of Population Health and School of Health Related Professions.

**Christine M Borges, MPH** serves as the Director of Program Implementation and Evaluation at New York City's Department of Health and Mental Health Hygiene (NYCDOHM) Bureau of Public Health Clinics (BPHC). She has developed and managed new programs in the sexual health clinics, including planning and implementing the HIV prevention and treatment programs and building the Bureau's first patient navigation program. She currently oversees multiple activities that aim to ascertain the barriers and facilitators of accessing sexual health services in NYC, engaging patients in prevention and treatment programs and preparing clinical providers and other staff to follow new clinical and research protocols.

**Joaquin Aracena, MA** serves as Assistant Commissioner at New York City Department of Health and Mental Health Hygiene (NYCDOHM) for the Bureau of Public Health Clinics, which consists of eight Sexual Health Clinics, four TB CHEST Clinic, one STI Quickie site and eight COVID Express testing sites that will be pivoted in the future to STI Quickie sites overtime. With more than 15 years of experience in Infectious Disease in clinical administration. Mr. Aracena has worked in various non-profit and for-profit institutes developing and implementing program goals, strategies to sustain and grow programs and services; conducting needs assessments and analyzing patient, staff, and community needs for basis of program effectiveness to develop and implement improved methods. In his role of Assistant Commissioner, he leads the initiatives of centralization of clinical operation and integrative services where common interventions are effective, improve resilience to budget challenges and implement innovative approaches to provide timely, accessible, high-quality, equitable and respectful care that helps improve the lives of our patients and contributes to a healthier community.

**Erica Drake, APRN, CPN** has been a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner for the 15 years and has been a part of the Health Start School Based Clinics, a division of Minnesota Community Care for the last 11 years. She serves as the Medical Director for this program and supervises the Advanced Practice Provider team. She has a passion for Adolescent Medicine and is honored to work beside, serve and learn from the youth of today.

**Sandy Naughton, BA, CCE** has been a Health Educator with the Health Start School Based Clinics, a program of Minnesota Community Care for the past 43 years. She supervises a team of Health Educators who work in all 10 MCCs SBCs. She has co-authored award winning Human Sexuality curricula, continues to promote healthy sexuality and life skills as well as positive self-advocacy in the clinics, in classrooms and in support groups for youth. Sandy is grateful for the opportunity to work with highly skilled interdisciplinary teams who staff the SBCs and for the young people who continue to teach her every day.

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## Panel 2: Leveraging policy to advance HIV, VH, and STI priorities

**Moderator: Michael Williams, MPH** is a Public Health Analyst in the Office of Policy, Planning, and Partnerships (OPPP) within the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. Currently, Michael leads NCHHSTP's Policy as a Public Health Intervention portfolio which seeks to advance evidence-based policy strategies to support achieving a future free of HIV, viral hepatitis, STDs, and TB. Serving in NCHHSTP since 2016, Michael has supported numerous CDC and HHS initiatives and priorities including supporting the multi-state hepatitis A outbreaks response, the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative, and the first-ever HHS STI Federal Action Plan. Michael's research interests include understanding the effect law and policy has on health outcomes and translating those findings into messages and actionable strategies for state and federal decisionmakers. Michael joined CDC in 2013 as a Public Health Associate in Charleston, West Virginia where he regularly investigated cases and outbreaks of infectious disease. In 2015, Michael implemented a multi-county syndromic surveillance system following a drinking water contamination incident affecting at least 300,000 West Virginians. After PHAP in Atlanta, Michael supported CDC's Ebola and Zika virus emergency responses as well as botulism preparedness efforts. Michael received an undergraduate degree in public administration from Grand Valley State University in 2013 and a Master of Public Health from The George Washington University in 2016.

**Adrienne Simmons, PharmD, MS, BCPS, AAHIVP** is the Director of Programs at the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable, a program of the Hepatitis Education Project. Dr. Simmons works with patients, providers, public health partners, and policymakers to remove barriers to viral hepatitis care and advocate for historically marginalized communities, including low-income individuals, people who use drugs, communities of color, people who are experiencing homelessness, and people who are incarcerated. Following the completion of her Doctor of Pharmacy at VCU School of Pharmacy, she completed two years of residency training at UNC Medical Center where she gained clinical and administrative experience in hepatology, HIV, medication access, and 340B. Dr. Simmons also holds an M.S. from the University of North Carolina and a B.A. from the University of Virginia.

**Julia Harvey, JD** is a Clinical Fellow at the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School (CHLPI). Her portfolio focuses on federal and state advocacy to improve health care access for lower-income populations, especially for people living with HIV and hepatitis C. Prior to joining CHLPI, Julia was a Senior Analyst at MassHealth, the Massachusetts Medicaid program, where she helped to implement the novel Accountable Care Organization (ACO) program for nearly 1 million Medicaid members. She also has experience managing community-based public health programs to improve access to HIV and hepatitis C testing and treatment, as well as access to affordable, healthy foods. Julia graduated from New York University School of Law where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern Public Interest Scholar, and she holds a B.A. in Public Health from Brown University.

**Marisa Ramos, PhD** has been with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for 14 years. Currently, she is the Office of AIDS Chief. Previously she served as the Office of Refugee Health Chief for 11 years. She has 25 years of experience managing research projects, data systems, and surveillance efforts, and has authored publications and presented at local, state, national and international conferences on refugee and Latinx health issues. Prior to coming to CDPH, Dr. Ramos was an Adjunct Professor of Biology at the University of California, Davis, where she currently serves as a volunteer Professor of Public Health. Dr. Ramos completed both Masters and Doctoral programs in Biological Nutrition with an emphasis in Epidemiology from the University of California, Davis.

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**Rachel McLean, MPH** leads the California Department of Public Health, STD Control Branch, Policy and Viral Hepatitis Prevention Section. Previously, she worked on policies affecting incarcerated youth and their families at the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in California and on issues affecting people released from prisons and jails at the Council of State Governments Justice Center in New York. While completing her Master of Public Health degree at Johns Hopkins University, she conducted a needs assessment of women at the Baltimore City Detention Center. She served as outreach coordinator for a study of HIV and viral hepatitis among young people who inject drugs, tracking participants to ensure hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine adherence and spent four years working with homeless youth. She also founded the Drug Overdose Prevention and Education Project in San Francisco.

**Anthony James, MS, MA, MSHCM** has worked in the field of HIV/STD prevention for 15 years. He previously held the positions of Director of Client Services and Director of Prevention and Community Outreach at two AIDS services organizations (ASO) in Louisiana. He also held the position of Regional Prevention Coordinator Supervisor for the Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program (SHHP) where he directed the planning, monitoring, and coordination of STD/HIV/Hepatitis prevention activities throughout the State of Louisiana. He is currently the Deputy Director of Programs for SHHP. In his present role, he is responsible for the STD, HIV, and hepatitis prevention and treatment programs within SHHP as well as grants management and the Research and Evaluation Unit within the program. He has a master's degree in Instructional Design and Technology from McNeese State University, a master's degree in Management from Webster University, and a master's degree in Health Care Management from the University of New Orleans.

**Shira Shavit, MD** is a Clinical Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California in San Francisco and the Executive Director and co-founder of the Transitions Clinic Network (TCN). For over a decade through research and community engagement, Dr. Shavit has been redefining national best practices to address the health inequities experienced by communities impacted by mass incarceration. In addition to providing clinical care to communities impacted by incarceration, Dr. Shavit has led health system transformation in over 48 primary care systems in 14 states and Puerto Rico resulting in healthcare career opportunities for hundreds of people with criminal legal involvement as community health workers. Her work in the TCN has also been shown to cut health care and criminal legal costs, and support healthy, sustained integration of individuals returning home from incarceration. In 2012, she led a Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation funded project across 11 sites in collaboration with City College of California. She also worked as a consultant to reform healthcare systems in the California State prisons in collaboration with the Federal Receivership (2006-2011). She is a recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader Award (2010). Dr. Shavit graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, completed her MD at Rush University in Chicago, and completed her residency training at the University of California, San Francisco. She is currently a California Health Care Foundation Health Care Leadership Fellow.

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**Special Presentation: Turning the Tide on Self-Testing and Sample Collection**

**Moderator: Elizabeth DiNenno, PhD** is Senior Advisor for HIV Testing in the Division of HIV Prevention at CDC, and coordinates the implementation of and scientific advancements in HIV testing at CDC. She previously served as Associate Deputy Director for HIV Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory sciences. She joined CDC in 2004, working on projects that assess HIV risk and HIV prevalence among priority populations in the United States. She has directed US-based projects to improve the uptake of laboratory and point-of-care HIV tests to diagnose persons with HIV infection, written papers and guidelines to increase uptake of HIV screening, and coordinated HIV surveillance and epidemiological studies across multiple branches at CDC. She holds a PhD degree in sociology from Temple University (PA) and conducted studies in the Philadelphia Department of Health in the AIDS Activities office prior to joining CDC.

**S. Michele Owen, PhD** is the Associate Director of Laboratory Science (ADLS) at CDC's National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP). In this role, Dr. Owen is the primary advisor on matters relating to laboratory science, leading the Center's laboratory capabilities and providing technical assistance to coordinate national and international disease control programs, while providing oversight for the Center laboratories' research and reference activities. Joining CDC in 1987, Dr. Owen has worked as a microbiologist over the years and beginning in 2007 led the HIV Incidence and Diagnostics Team in DHAP's Laboratory Branch, conducting research to develop, evaluate and implement new diagnostic technology with the goal of improving HIV diagnosis. In addition to research, she has been responsible for the oversight of the domestic HIV CLIA reference laboratory, which provides HIV diagnostic support to state laboratories, epidemiologists, commercial labs, and physicians. From 2006 to 2007, Dr. Owen served as the acting ADLS for the Center. An expert on HIV diagnostics and laboratory methods for measuring HIV incidence, Dr. Owen has authored and co-authored more than 100 scholarly articles and book chapters. She holds a doctorate degree in biochemistry from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a bachelor and master of science degrees in microbiology/molecular biology from Georgia State University.

**Julia Tait Lathrop, PhD** is Associate Deputy Director in the Division of Emerging and Transfusion-Transmitted Diseases (DETTD), Office of Blood Research and Review (OBRR) in the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Review. DETTD has responsibility for regulating retroviral diagnostics, including HIV, as well as devices for screening blood donors for infectious disease. She joined FDA in 2012 and held roles in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH), Office of In Vitro Diagnostics and Radiological Health (OIR, now OHT7) as a Scientific Reviewer and as Acting Chief of the Immunology and Flow Cytometry Branch in the Division of Immunology and Hematology Devices until 2016, when she joined DETTD. She holds a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Virginia.

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## Panel 3: Applied Syndemic Approach to HIV, VH, and STIs: Focusing on People

**Moderator:** Demetre Daskalakis, MD, MPH (see above)

**Andrew Gans, MPH** has worked in HIV prevention and care services for over 30 years since first volunteering as an HIV emotional support volunteer in northern California in 1987. Andrew got his Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from San Jose State University in 1992, where he later served as Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Health Science. Andrew has worked for the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) for over 15 years, including as HIV, STD and Hepatitis Section Manager since 2013. He oversees five different program areas including HIV prevention, HIV care/treatment services, hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and harm reduction. The section has been an innovator with model statewide programs including a high volume statewide syringe exchange, opiate overdose prevention, a comprehensive plan to eliminate hepatitis C virus (HCV) by 2030, a CDC-funded pilot program for finding undiagnosed HIV cases in a state with low/moderate prevalence, and reduced barriers to HIV PrEP via Project Syphilis-PrEP Intervention in Community (SPICY). Andrew has been the state delegate to the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) since 2008 and served as Chair during 2015-2016. This has allowed him to advocate with federal health agencies on behalf of state and local governmental public health on both sustainable funding and reasonable grant reporting requirements.

**Josh Swatek** graduated with a degree in political science from New Mexico State University. Josh has spent his career working in harm reduction and related fields including as a community-based syringe service provider, The New Mexico Department of Health's first overdose prevention coordinator, the statewide viral hepatitis prevention coordinator, and the HIV and HCV planning coordinator. Currently Josh is the Hepatitis and Harm Reduction Program manager where he oversees the statewide syringe service, overdose prevention and education, and hepatitis prevention programs for the Public Health Division.

**John J. Hagan, MD, FASAM** was born and raised in Boston, MA. He received his undergraduate degree in Biophysics from The Johns Hopkins University. He is a graduate of the Boston University School of Medicine. After joining the Army, he completed his Internal Medicine residency at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colorado and served with the 101st Airborne for two years. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and in Addiction Medicine. Dr. Hagan has worked as a primary care physician, hospitalist and intensivist. In 2003, John joined the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, where he provides primary care services and serves as the State Correctional Health Authority. John is very active in the American Correctional Association where he serves on numerous healthcare committees and serves as a teaching resource. He has chaired the Substance Use Disorders Committee since 2017. He also leads the Clinical Practice Workgroup for the Coalition of Correctional Health Authorities. He finds his greatest joy in teaching - He holds the position of Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences where he serves as the Vice Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine.

**Rosalia Lopez, M.Ed** has worked for the four San Francisco Unified School District for the past 20 years. She spent ten years in middle school classrooms teaching health education, and training youth to be peer educators and leaders at their schools. Rosalia is currently a Teacher on Special Assignment who is responsible for planning and implementing health education professional development for teachers and other school staff including School District Nurses and School Social Workers. In her current position she is also the liaison to CDC/DASH and the SFUSD Student & Families Services Division (SFSD) Office. Rosalia has also played a key role in writing grants that continue to support health education, sexual health



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services and reviewing health education curriculum to ensuring compliance with district and state health policies.

**Alexa Oster, MD, CAPT USPHS** leads CDC's efforts to detect and respond to HIV clusters and outbreaks. She is currently the Acting Chief of the Detection and Response Branch in CDC's Division of HIV Prevention. In that role and previous roles, she led the implementation and national scale-up of HIV cluster and outbreak detection and response, including serving as the Division's lead for the Respond pillar of the Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. initiative. She has also held leadership positions in emergency responses to COVID-19, Zika, Ebola, and H1N1 influenza. Dr. Oster joined CDC in 2007 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer, after which she worked on the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System and then the National HIV Surveillance System. She has authored or coauthored more than 100 publications. Dr. Oster graduated from Vanderbilt University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed her residency in Primary Care Internal Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.