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**The Voices for Healthy Kids Summit 2022**

The Power of Community

September 20-21, 2022

**Speaker Bios**

# **Darlene Adams Rowland**

**Executive Director**

**Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance (BREADA)**

Darlene Adams Rowland has dedicated the last fourteen years to local food system work by  
connecting farmers and consumers to build and sustain a vibrant local food system. As the  
Executive Director of Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance (BREADA), she  
oversees four locations of the Red Stick Farmers Market in Baton Rouge that provide direct sales  
opportunities that are critical to the sustainability of Louisiana’s small family farmers. Her background  
includes experience in marketing, fundraising, market management, farmer development, technical assistance, and oversight of BREADA’s nutrition outreach programs. As a member of Class XVII of the LSU Agriculture Leadership Class, Ms. Rowland meets with state and national agriculture leaders to address issues facing Louisiana farmers. She also serves on the Flagship Market’s Community of Practice Group for the Farmers Market Coalition to collaborate and share best practices for farmers markets nationwide. Ms. Rowland has been a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals for over a decade and has served on the Board of Directors in numerous capacities including Secretary, Vice President of Communications, and Governmental Relations Chair. She is also an accomplished writer as a contributor to Country Roads Magazine, curating compelling stories that highlight local foodways and travel.

**Danielle Atkinson**

**National Executive Director, Founder**

**Mothering Justice**



Danielle Atkinson has extensive experience as a church-based, electoral, and community organizer. She has worked with organizations such as America Votes, State Voices, Population Connection and ACORN. In 2012, Atkinson founded Mothering Justice, a leadership development and advocacy organization. Atkinson has led organizing efforts to raise the minimum wage in both Florida and Michigan. Mothering Justice also led the fight to get earned paid sick time in Michigan. Her work organizing mothers won her the 2013 Michigan Organizer of the Year Award. Atkinson received bachelor’s degrees in political science and sociology from Pfeiffer University and lives in Royal Oak, Michigan, with her husband Frank and their six children.

**Denise W. Barreto**

**Entrepreneur, author and TEDx speaker**

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Denise W. Barreto is a prominent 21st Century voice on inclusive leadership and storytelling. Whether in her role as a business strategist and managing partner of Relationships Matter Now, LLC or behind the camera as an executive producer and co-founder of Serqet Productions and Media, LLC, Denise is always challenging the status quo and building new, more inclusive narratives and environments across government, nonprofit, corporate and entertainment entities. At Relationships Matter Now, LLC, primarily delivering strategic planning facilitation, organizational and leader development and inclusion and diversity strategy, Denise and her firm has quickly become a go-to resource for non-profit and government agencies and businesses of all sizes who want to better leverage their relationships to grow their bottom line. Denise and her small firm are leading a new conversation about equity, inclusion and diversity in philanthropic, corporate and government entities across the United States. Challenging and reshaping narratives and social norms, she drives a broader view of diversity, creates alternative systems and focuses on leadership competencies as the cornerstone to building more inclusive environments. In 2020, Denise accepted an appointment from one of her political s/heroes and joined Cook County Government as its inaugural Director of Equity and Inclusion where she’s charged with leading the county to deliver its 2018 Policy Roadmap with a racial equity lens. As a south suburban Cook County native, Denise could not pass up the opportunity to drive structural and institutional change for the second largest county in the United States. Personal leadership is just as vital as organizational leadership and Denise has excelled professionally and personally. She was twice elected to the Board of Trustees for the Village of Lake in the Hills, IL. Since 2014, Denise has served on the Illinois Business Enterprise Program Council, a state commission that helps to implement, monitor, and enforce the goals of the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Females and Persons with Disabilities Act appointed by former Illinois Governor Pat Quinn. She is in her second year as the chair of the Parks and Recreation Board for the City of Evanston and serves as an advisory board member of the 101 Best and Brightest Places to Work - Chicago Chapter.

[www.linkedin.com/in/denisewbarreto](http://www.linkedin.com/in/denisewbarreto)

[www.facebook.com/relationshipsmatternow](http://www.facebook.com/relationshipsmatternow)

[www.relationshipmatternow.com](http://www.relationshipmatternow.com)

[www.serqetproductions.com](http://www.serqetproductions.com)

@DeniseWBarreto – Twitter

**Katie Bishop Kendrick, MS, MPH**,

Senior Program Manager for Preemption.

 Katie’s passion in public health and her expertise is nutrition policy, with more than 15 years’ experience, have helped to drive policy change the national, and local levels to improve people’s ability to live a healthy life. At the Association, she has led development of key policy statements with national experts in nutrition and air quality. She also supported state and local campaigns to pass sugary drink taxes, healthy kids’ meals in restaurants, early care and education requirements, as well as physical activity policy change.

Prior to joining the American Heart Association, Katie focused on food service guidelines and improving school foods at the Center for Science in the Public Interest. Earlier in her career, she served as an aide and legislative director for a Massachusetts state representative.

Katie holds two master's degrees, in nutrition and public health, from Tufts University and bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Rhode Island. Katie resides in western Massachusetts with her husband, two small children, and three-legged cat Felix. She enjoys getting outside with her kids and is learning firsthand the joys and struggles of starting kids off with healthy foods when they are young.

**Melissa Buffalo, MS (Meskwaki & Dakota)**

**Chief Executive Office**

**American Indian Cancer Foundation**

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Melissa Buffalo, MS, Chief Executive Officer - Ms. Buffalo is an enrolled member of the Meskwaki Nation in Iowa, and Dakota from the Crow Creek and Lower Brule Sioux Tribes. She received her undergraduate degree in child psychology from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and earned an MS in Human Development from South Dakota State University. Melissa has over 15 years of experience working in the public health sector in a variety of different roles, she brings a wealth of knowledge to AICAF. As the CEO, Melissa is committed to working with and for Tribal Nations, and urban and rural tribal communities with opportunities to heal; emotionally, historically, spiritually, and physically from the inequities of cancer. Her responsibilities as the CEO of the American Indian Cancer Foundation include the overall direction and implementation of a strategic vision to improve Indigenous cancer outcomes nationally.

**Christine Compton, MPH**

**Policy Engagement Manager**

**Voices for Healthy Kids, American Heart Association**

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Christine Compton, M.P.H., (she/her) is a policy engagement manager for Voices for Healthy Kids where she directs campaigns across the country with an emphasis on persuading decision-makers, volunteers, partners, and advocates to achieve measurable goals that drive results including appropriations that influence economic impact in affected communities. Christinecombines her education and experience across the sectors of marketing and public health to champion campaigns and initiatives that motivate decision-makers, advance initiatives, drive change and impact equity. Her focus is on strategic planning, project management, stakeholder engagement & non-profit leadership.

Christine holds a bachelor’s degree in advertising/journalism from Marshall University and a Master of Public Health from West Virginia University. She enjoys circuit classes, kayaking, hiking and yoga. She resides in Charleston, West Virginia and is the proud mother of two amazing young people, Elena and Chase.

**Francys Crevier (Algonquin)**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**National Council of Urban Indian Health**

Crevier is a leading advocate for access to equitable healthcare in Indian Country and works to ensure urban health clinics serving American Indians and Alaska Natives are provided technical assistance, training, and support in order to ensure that members of tribal communities get the quality health care they need. She joined NCUIH in 2016 as the Policy Analyst and Congressional Relations Liaison and later became the Director of Governmental Affairs. She has also clerked for Tribal supreme courts, represented Tribes as in-house counsel and special prosecutor, and worked for the United Nations Special Rapporteur for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Crevier received her J.D. from University of Arizona Law with a Certificate in Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy and her B.A. in Public Administration from Florida International University.

**Pastor Willie Dwayne Francois III**

**President**

**The Black Church Center for Justice and Equality**

A native of Galveston, Texas, Willie Dwayne Francois III is a 2009 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Religion, named the ranking scholar in both departments. Francois is a member of various honor societies and holds two fellowships from the Fund for Theological Education. While at Morehouse, he served as the president of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel Assistants Program and was named the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar. Francois received a Master of Divinity from Harvard University's Divinity School, where he received the Hopkins Shareholders Award—the school's highest academic recognition—and served as the class of 2012 commencement speaker. Currently, Francois is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology.

Called to empower people through transformative preaching, teaching, and organizing, Francois serves as the Senior Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church of Pleasantville, NJ. From 2013 to 2015, Francois served as the Associate Pastor of First Corinthian Baptist Church (FCBC) in Harlem, New York, where Pastor Michael A. Walrond, Jr. is the pastor. Prior to joining the FCBC team, he served as the Minister of Christian Education and Discipleship at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, under his pastor, Rev. Dr. Marcus D. Cosby. Pastor Willie also fulfilled several highly intensive and structured ministerial internships at Wheeler Avenue, FCBC and Morning Star Baptist Church (of Boston, Massachusetts, under the leadership of Bishop John M. Borders III). Francois was licensed and ordained at the First Union Baptist Church of Galveston, Texas.

Along with Rev. Martha L. Simmons, Esq., he is the co-author of *Christian Minister’s Manual: For the Pulpit and the Public Square for All Denomination*—the most progressive and comprehensive clergy resource for priestly and prophetic ministries and the first interdenominational manual written for Black clergy in 56 years. In addition to publishing various articles and sermons, Francois served as a member of the Young Preachers' Leadership Team of the Academy of Preachers, the director of the Young Ministers' Corner of the African American Lectionary, a research assistant for Dr. Lawrence Edward Carter Sr. and Dr. Jonathan L. Walton, and a Civil Rights Scholar for the imaging of the King Paper collection through the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (in Atlanta). Likewise, he holds an adjunct position in the African American Studies program at the University of Houston.

Associated with various organizations, boards, and initiatives, Francois works to dismantle the racialized prison industrial complex in America. Through the Bill Lucy Fellowship, Francois represented the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference in a global conversation on mass incarceration at the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race at the University of London-Birkbeck in London, England. Pastor Willie also serves as the newly appointed President of the Black Church Center for Justice and Equality. For 2014-2015, Francois was named a Beatitudes Society Fellow, focusing on congregational responses to Mass Incarceration and empowering returning citizens. In 2018, The Center for Community Change named Pastor Willie a Safety Net Communications Fellow. A charter core team member of Black Lives Matter: Atlantic City, Francois’ pastoral activism is organized around racial equity and economic justice and criminal justice reform. He has written for The *Huffington Post*, *Religion Dispatches, Civil Eats, The Hill* and *The Christian Century* concerning a range of matters pivoting around race, class, and religion in America.

Francois attributes his love of life and dedication to doing the so-called impossible to his close-knit family. He is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

**Allyson Frazier, MSW**

**Director of Communications and Campaign Planning**

**Voices for Healthy Kids, American Heart Association**

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Allyson (she/her) is the director of campaign planning and communications for Voices for Healthy Kids.

Allyson has worked in the field of public affairs for more than 25 years and has kept her sense of humor and belief in government for and by the people. For close to two decades with the American Heart Association and Voices for Healthy Kids, she has been responsible for planning and implementing advocacy campaigns on the state, regional and local levels.

Prior to joining the American Heart Association, Allyson was the campaign manager of Clean Air Works, the successful campaign that made Boston one of the first major cities to go smoke-free, and ultimately paved the way for a smoke-free state law. She supported the passage, implementation and monitoring of public health laws and regulations. Allyson credits this experience as providing her an excellent understanding of the process of implementing changes once a bill becomes a law.

Allyson earned a master’s degree in social work from Arizona State University, specializing in community-based strategies and a bachelor’s degree from American University in international studies.

Allyson is the proud and harried mom of three wild kids, raising them to change the world (when she isn’t driving them late to practices, or is it a game?).

**Lori Fresina**

**Vice President and Executive Director**

**Voices for Healthy Kids, American Heart Association**

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Lori (she/her) is the Vice President and Executive Director of Voices for Healthy Kids, American Heart Association. Through her leadership, direction and dedication, Lori has made a significant contribution to making communities healthier and more equitable through effective public policy.

As co-creator of the Power Prism® advocacy framework, Lori’s expertise includes campaign planning, equitable coalition practices, community mobilization, training, grassroots development, and media advocacy.

Before joining the American Heart Association in March 2019, Lori had long stints in public interest advocacy as senior vice president and New England office director for M+R Strategic Services, Northeast Regional Advocacy Director for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, and a variety of roles with American Cancer Society.

Lori received a bachelor’s degree in communications from Emerson College and a master’s degree in public policy and citizen participation from Tufts University.

For fun, Lori goes to great lengths to make sure that she is her dog Lilly’s favorite human, and she’s been known to embark on unusual art projects while trying to close the gap between her creativity and talent.

**Claudia Goytia**

**Policy Engagement Manager**

**Voices for Healthy Kids, American Heart Association**

Claudia supports advocacy campaigns nationwide that are focused on healthy school foods and family income supports. She is an experienced legislative and public policy strategist with strengths in health, equity, active places and governance.

Claudia first joined the American Heart Association in 2014 and served as government relations director in the Los Angeles area. In her tenure, she has excelled at understanding the policy landscape at the local and state level to support advancement of the mission of the American Heart Association and Voices for Healthy Kids. She has effectively translated the organizations’ policy objectives into strategic roadmaps that have garnered advancement of health policy at the local level.

With over 11 years of experience working for the California state legislature and the nonprofit sector, Claudia has managed and led teams to build capacity, advance public policy and mobilize advocacy efforts in communities throughout Los Angeles County. She has guided community coalitions, small businesses and nonprofits to successfully engage in the political process, resulting in transformative policy outcomes for communities. Claudia credits her ability to deliver successful outcomes to her persistence, strong community connections and relationships with decision-makers.

Claudia is an immigrant of El Salvador, graduate of California Polytechnic University of Pomona and a mother of a 15-year-old girl and a 10-year-old boy.

**Genoveva Islas, MPH**

**Founder & Executive Director**

**Cultiva La Salud**

Genoveva Islas was born in Fresno, California and grew up in small rural communities of the San Joaquin Valley; her parents, were farm laborers.

Genoveva is the first in her family to attend college and graduate with an advanced degree. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Science with an emphasis in Community Health from California State University, Fresno and received a Master’s in Public Health degree in Health Education and Promotion from Loma Linda University.

Genoveva is the Founder & Executive Director of Cultiva La Salud; a public health advocacy non-profit based in Fresno, California. Cultiva is dedicated to advancing health equity by fostering policy, system and environmental improvements that promote healthy communities. Cultiva’s efforts also focus on building community leadership so that residents can be more effective in advocating for healthy changes in their communities. Genoveva is a recognized Culture of Health Leader by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and an Aspen Institute, Healthy Communities Fellow.

Genoveva was appointed by Governor Brown to serve on the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley board and in the past was also appointed to the Health Benefit Exchange Board for California (Covered CA). Genoveva currently serves as a Fresno Unified School District Board Member, representing Area 4 – the McLane Region.

**Yui Iwase**

**Advocacy Analyst**

**Voices for Healthy Kids, American Heart Association**

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Yui (she/her) is the Associate Advocacy Analyst for Voices for Healthy Kids. She helps connect the dots across different teams at Voices for Healthy Kids and she spends her days managing data, coordinating trainings, creating dashboards, and assisting with grant administration.

Before joining the American Heart Association, Yui worked in international agriculture development and food access programs in Honduras, Cambodia, and in the United States. Yui’s most recent role was in Dallas with the International Rescue Committee managing the food security and agriculture program where she collaborated with refugee and immigrant families to connect to urban agriculture opportunities, started a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Double Match accessible farm stand, and worked with local partners to advocate for refugees.

Yui attended Indiana Wesleyan University where she earned her bachelor’s degree in biology while playing volleyball. She is currently attending UTHealth School of Public Health to pursue her Master’s in Public Health in policy.

Yui enjoys all things outdoors, especially birding and backpacking. She also spends her time volunteering as a Texas Master Naturalist and at the Houston Audubon Center.

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**Alana Jochum, JD**

**Executive Director**

**Equality Ohio**

 Alana Jochum (she/her/hers) is an attorney and Executive Director of Equality Ohio. She received her B.A. in English and B.S. in Psychology from Baldwin Wallace University and has been passionately engaged in the fight for LGBTQ+ equality at the local, state, national, and international level for more than a decade.

Alana spent time in Mumbai, India volunteering with the Humsafar Trust, a nongovernmental organization working to advance LGBTQ+ equality in India. After returning home, she worked at United Way of Greater Cleveland and continued her LGBTQ+ volunteer work through the Human Rights Campaign.

Alana attended Cleveland Marshall College of Law where she served as Editor in Chief of the Cleveland State Law Review. She became an Associate at Squire Patton Boggs, LLP where she focused her legal practice on complex civil litigation, international law, product liability disputes and other commercial litigation. She also represented clients in habeas proceedings before the Sixth Circuit and at the district court level.

Alana left Squire in 2014 to work with Equality Ohio full time where she has the privilege of advocating for LGBTQ+ equality statewide. She also proudly serves as a Board member for the Equality Federation, a national organization focused on capacity building and support for statewide LGBTQ+ organizations across the country.

**David Masur**

**Executive Director**

**PennEnvironment**

As executive director, David spearheads the issue advocacy, civic engagement campaigns, and long-term organizational building for PennEnvironment. He also oversees PennPIRG and other organizations within The Public Interest Network that are engaged in social change across Pennsylvania. David’s areas of expertise include fracking, global warming, environmental enforcement and litigation, and clean energy and land use policy in Pennsylvania. David has served on the environmental transition teams for Gov. Tom Wolf and Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, and been named one of Pennsylvania’s “40 under 40” environmentalists by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. Under David’s leadership, PennEnvironment has won the two largest citizen suit penalties in Pennsylvania history against illegal polluters under the federal Clean Water Act. David lives in South Philadelphia with his family, where they’re involved in their local elementary school, community garden and civic association.

### ****Doris Meier**** Program Manager

### Roots of Change

A person smiling for the camera

Description automatically generated with medium confidence Doris grew up in a small farming town in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. She immigrated to the US in her mid-20s and has lived in the Bay Area ever since. For close to a decade, she directed an international education business and later worked as an organizational development consultant and business coach. She was recently involved in a start-up company focused on building a story-telling platform for mission-driven brands to help consumers reconnect to the origins of the food they eat and make more ethical purchasing choices. In her current position as Program Manager, she is very committed to facilitating the success of Roots of Change’s mission to establish a sustainable, climate-friendly food system in California. Doris manages all aspects of communication, campaign and event management for the various projects Roots of Change is involved in. She received a bachelor’s degree in Humanities from New College of California and a Master’s degree in Organizational Psychology from Golden Gate University. Doris is passionate about food justice and other social causes, is an avid photographer, traveler and cook…and loves to eat!

**Richard Moore**

**Co-Coordinator**

**Los Jardines Institute**

****Richard currently serves as the Co-Chair of the inaugural White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council (WHEJAC). Richard has also served on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), where in 1993 he was the first elected Chair. Richard is the Co-Coordinator for Los Jardines Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and national Co-Coordinator of the Environmental Justice & Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform, advocating for stronger, safer, and just chemical policies. He is also Co-Founder and Board Member of Just Transition Alliance and a Board Member of Coming Clean, Inc.

**Elisa Muñoz**

**Executive Director**

**New Orleans Food Policy Action Council**

Elisa Muñoz comes from a Puerto Rican dad and New Orleans mom; celebrating with food is in her blood. Elisa originally hails from Baton Rouge but has called New York, New Jersey, Alabama, and Louisiana home. She has worked in food, agriculture and community organizing for over a decade and now works to shape public policy to improve equity, opportunity, and collaboration in our local food system. Elisa is also on the Board of Directors for Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, working to expand opportunities for small and mid-sized family farms in the South. Empowering people to understand and advocate for sound policy and systems change is her life’s work. In her spare time, she is trying to become a baker and enjoys eating baked goods while watching her son pretend to be a fireman and streetcar conductor at the park.

**Erica Phung**

**Director of Policy Engagement**

**Voices for Healthy Kids, American Heart Association**

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Erica Phung (she/her) is the Director of Policy Engagement with Voices for Healthy Kids. She leads the team that provides hands-on field consultation and technical support to American Heart Association Staff, Voices for Healthy Kids grantees, community-centered organizations, and coalitions working to advance public policy priorities to address child health and equity. Erica joined the American Heart Association advocacy team in 2006, previously working on local, state and federal policies that impact cardiovascular health.

A native San Diegan, Erica loves avocados on just about anything, yoga, and sunset walks at Mission Bay with her husband John and rescue pup Penny. A proud platelet donor, Erica’s donated over 8 gallons at the San Diego Blood Bank.

**Shelby Pierce**

**Facilitator**

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Description automatically generatedPierce Porter Facilitation**

Shelby Pierce (she series), the owner of Pierce Porter Facilitation, is a Technology of Participation (ToP) Facilitator and Trainer. She helps groups and organizations to create meaningful and productive in-person and online meetings. She has 10 years of experience in the financial services and healthcare sectors. Shelby has a rich background in community organizing and has served on the executive committee for several nonprofit boards. Taking her experience facilitating a variety of meetings across many different sectors, she now facilitates and produces both in-person and online gatherings. She is passionate about supporting communities to move forward in life and business as we all forge new Paths in this historic time.    
   
Since the start of the worldwide pandemic, she has worked with over 100 different groups, ranging from local community initiatives and nonprofits to nationwide groups including healthcare, city governments, education & training groups specializing in international student recruitment, and finally on an international level working on planning projects with colleagues from Dubai, Canada, and Jordan.

*Shelby and her partner reside in northwest Iowa. She enjoys spending time with family, and friends and being outdoors and especially loves foraging for seasonal treats such as Morel mushrooms and berries*

**Stephanie Scarmo, PhD, MPH**

**Senior Manager of Policy Research**

**Voices for Healthy Kids, American Heart Association**

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Stephanie (she/her) is the senior manager of policy research for Voices for Healthy Kids, where she leads the research and analysis efforts for the initiative.

Previously, Stephanie served as an officer for the Kids’ Safe and Healthful Foods Project at The Pew Charitable Trusts, a staff scientist at the Center for Science in the Public Interest and a research associate at the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity.

She completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the New York University School of Medicine. Stephanie earned her Ph.D. and Master of Public Health in epidemiology from the Yale School of Public Health.

When she’s not working, Stephanie loves spending time on her yoga mat or sampling all the delicious pizza in Brooklyn, where she lives with her husband and her beautiful new baby.

**NaDa Shoemaker**

**National Partnership Manager and Indian Country Portfolio Manager**

**Voices for Healthy Kids, American Heart Association**

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NaDa (she/her) is the advocacy partnership manager for Voices for Healthy Kids. She leads grant administration for the Innovation, Equity and Exploration (IEE) workgroups which provide equity and policy expertise, resources and recommendations to support field campaigns. NaDa also leads collaboration and engagement activities with Native American communities across the US and leads the Health Leaders for Healthy Kids program bringing together health professionals as volunteer advocates to issue specific policy campaigns.

Before joining the American Heart Association in 2016, NaDa served as a FQHC executive director in rural Appalachia, IRB Administrator for cancer and genetics research in partnership with the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and developed and implemented tobacco cessation and prevention programs in rural Pennsylvania counties. She has vast experience in grant writing and administration, as NaDa was grant reviewer for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. She formerly provided leadership for a national cancer education and screening program, addressing the needs of uninsured and underserved individuals.

NaDa attended Bethel College and Friends University in Kansas and currently lives in rural Pennsylvania on a beef and maple syrup farm. In her spare time, she volunteers with ASIA Families, which provides culture school and birth search tours for Korean adoptees.

**Eboni Taylor**

**Michigan Executive Director**

**Mothering Justice**

Eboni Taylor is the Michigan Executive Director of Mothering Justice. In this position, Eboni manages the policy agenda and co-creates Mothering Justice’s strategic plan. Prior to this position, Eboni co-wrote the Economic Justice Alliance of Michigan’s 2017-18 Public Policy Manual and worked as a public policy fellow at the Skillman Foundation, where she managed special public policy projects affecting neighborhoods and children in Detroit. Eboni has her B.A. and M.P.P. from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and is currently pursuing a MBA at Yale. She serves on the board of directors for the Eastside Community Network. She lives in Detroit with her husband and two sons.

**April Wallace**

**Strategic Equity and Thought Partnership lead**

**Voices for Healthy Kids, American Heart Association**

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Description automatically generated with medium confidenceApril Wallace (she/her) is the Strategic Equity and Thought Partnership lead for Voices for Healthy Kids initiative. As a strategist, public health advocate and organizational culture and change agent, she focuses on providing strategic direction to inform Voices internal and external policies, practices, and culture. She is passionate about understanding the root causes of inequities and amplifying and centering the voices of communities that have been historically and institutionally marginalized in all areas of Voices’ work. Her experience also includes leading diverse health organization work groups, along with developing and implementing health education and promotion programs to improve health outcomes in communities, nationwide.

April is an alumna of Howard University, holding a BS in Health Sciences and Master of Healthcare Administration and Education. As a self-proclaimed personal development enthusiast, April is always seeking inspiration and cultural immersion through her love for travel, performing arts and listening to audiobooks and podcasts. She is deeply connected to her village of family and friends in her second home of Prince Georges County, MD, where she currently resides with her husband and son.

You can see the bios and photos of the full [Voices for Healthy Kids staff here](https://voicesforhealthykids.org/about/our-people)!