

# NYSPHC BIMONTHLY

A BIMONTHLY DIGEST FOR WESTERN NEW YORK FELLOWS

## WELCOME BACK!

Welcome to our second Bi-Monthly Western Regional Digest for the NYSPHC Program! This Digest is brought to you by NYSPHC Senior Fellows, Shelby Smith and Amber Whiteside of the Finger Lakes and Western Regions.

In this Digest you will find our Fellow and Non-Fellow Spotlights, links for important upcoming events, access to our newly established NYSPHC Job Posting PDF, and so much more! Check out pages 3 and 4 for a recap of the First Annual NYSPHC Fellowship Summit that took place on November 15 & 16 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, NY.

We hope that the Western Regional Digest will continue to be a helpful resource for all NYSPHC Fellows, Local Coordinators, Local Health Department Staff, Supervisors, and Mentors as you continue the amazing work being done in your counties.



-Shelby & Amber



Shelby Smith  
Sr. Fellow, Finger Lakes Region

Amber Whiteside  
Sr. Fellow, Western Region

## OUR LOCAL COORDINATORS

### FINGER LAKES REGION

Maggie Steele: Chemung, Schuyler, and Seneca Counties

Margarita Sumeguín: Ontario and Yates Counties

Kathy Wille: Livingston, Steuben, and Wayne Counties

### WESTERN REGION

Jillian Calmes: Wyoming County

Chris Crawford: Cattaraugus County

Wendy Douglas: Chautauqua County

Tania Islam: Erie County

Jennifer Rowan: Genesee and Orleans Counties

### December 1st is World AIDS Day!

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) is a core principle of NYSPHC, with the Fellowship Program addressing health equity in three ways: People (recruitment), Pedagogy (education and training), and Projects (Fellowship projects and placements).

Our Western Region Senior Fellow, Amber Whiteside, and Senior Fellow, Anh Le, worked hard to help create the *Providing Public Health Workforce Development Opportunities to Advance Health Equity* poster for the 2022 Ending the Epidemic Summit and World AIDS Day Event!

#### Providing Public Health Workforce Development Opportunities to Advance Health Equity

Bridgett Kaszok, MPH; Anh Le, Amber Whiteside, Hilary Farris, MPH; Akshita Gargam, MSW; Jennifer Heidemann; Eleanor Lopez, MPH; Gabriela Mayfield, MS; Aletha Sprague, Molly Ridley, Sarah Walker, MSHSA; Gianna Woodard, Ashley Tate, MPH - New York State Public Health Corps

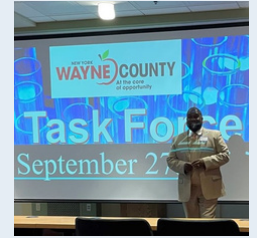
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>The New York State Public Health Corps (NYSPHC) is expanding public health capacity to support COVID-19 vaccination operations and increase preparedness for future public health emergencies across the State. The NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) is working with community partners to identify and train up to 1,500 Fellows to participate in the NYSPHC Fellowship Program. Local Health Departments and NYSDOH are the primary partners in providing critical support to core deliverables and in response to public health emergencies. <a href="#">Learn More</a></p> <p>Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to attain his or her full health potential and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of racial or ethnic identity, ancestry, language, social position, or other socially determined factors.</p> <p>NYSPHC addresses Health Equity in three ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People - Recruiting a diverse applicant pool and encouraging just, equitable living practices of Fellows by LHD and NYSDOH employers.</li> <li>Practitioner - Provide ongoing training on the public health core competency of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) through:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monthly educational series</li> <li>2. Local Public Health Essentials certificate program</li> <li>3. NYSPHC Bureau</li> <li>4. Regional case-based meetings</li> </ol> </li> <li>Projects - The NYSPHC Fellowship Program is advancing health equity through direct program services and by preparing Fellows to integrate health equity principles throughout their work, as they move</li> </ul>	<p><b>Methodology</b></p> <p>The sample Projects below were selected out of approximately 200 total Fellowship placements to highlight diversity, equity and inclusion work in Local Health Departments across New York State.</p> <p><b>Erie County</b></p> <p>The Public Health Graduate Fellow's main responsibilities are to coordinate with Buffalo Freedom Gardens to assist BIPOC communities in Buffalo and Niagara Falls to provide tools, education, and resources necessary to create gardens in their own backyards. The Fellow also acts on questions aimed at addressing food insecurity in communities of color. The purpose of the Fellowship project is to increase food security and resilience in urban communities identified as being food deserts, as well as encouraging Black community members to participate in the farming industry.</p> <p><b>Wayne County</b></p> <p>The Mental Health Open Access Fellow's main responsibilities are to provide health education services to vulnerable individuals who are struggling with addiction and/or a mental health problem, assist individuals in obtaining access to services/providers, and providing Narcan/Naloxone Opioid Overdose trainings to the community. The purpose of the fellowship position is to provide services that have been disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially to marginalized and vulnerable populations struggling with mental illness and substance use.</p>	<p><b>Suffolk County</b></p> <p>The Public Health Fellow's main responsibilities are to assist the Office of Minority Health staff with COVID-19 outreach and education, in developing relationships with health-care communities of color and providing public health education for constituents. By providing programming in multiple languages, the fellow promotes diverse equity and inclusion in the community.</p> <p><b>Below: Bernadin Valon, Mental Health Open Access Fellow in Wayne County (Right: Adameah Grayce, Public Health Graduate Fellow in Erie County)</b></p> <p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Health Departments are best situated to determine their Fellowship projects to best address health inequities and labor projects as such.</li> <li>Deployment of Fellows to LHDs is an effective way to fill gaps in services and core deliverables, especially when Fellows can provide expertise on</li> </ul>
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For more information regarding the 2022 World AIDS Day/ETE Summit, [click here!](#)

# Fellow Spotlight!

The Wayne County Opioid Task Force reconvened for the first time since 2019 on Tuesday, September 27, 2022. Bernadin Valcin, Public Health Corps Fellow from Wayne County Behavioral Health, presented information gathered by key stakeholders regarding the status of opioid overdoses in Wayne County over the past several years. Subcommittees on Prevention, Data, Treatment, Law Enforcement, and Health Disparities are currently being formed to focus on specific areas of need to identify barriers and to ensure that individuals experiencing a substance use disorder receive the most comprehensive care they need.

Bernadin is currently providing free Narcan Trainings through Wayne County Behavioral Health to individuals and agencies, based on request. If you are interested in scheduling a training or would like any additional information, please contact Bernadin at [BValcin@co.wayne.ny.us](mailto:BValcin@co.wayne.ny.us)



**Bernadin Valcin**  
Wayne County  
NYSPHC Fellow

### LINKS FOR YOUR FUTURE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

[Finger Lakes Region Civil Service Openings](#)

[Western Region Civil Service Openings](#)

[DOH Employment Opportunities](#)

[StateJobsNY](#)

[HRI Employment](#)

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

### NYSPHC Educational Series

Budget & Financial Management  
December 14, 2022 from 12-1PM (virtual)

### NYSPHC Fellow Virtual Lunch & Chat

Western & Finger Lakes Regions  
Wednesday, January 4, 2023

### NYSPHC Educational Series

Policy Engagement  
January 11, 2023 from 12-1PM (virtual)

### Finger Lakes/Western Regional Consortium

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 from 10AM-12PM  
*\*Registration link available in February 2023!*



### Spread the word!

Do you know someone who resides in the Western or Finger Lakes Region who would be a great Fellow?



### Our Program is Growing!

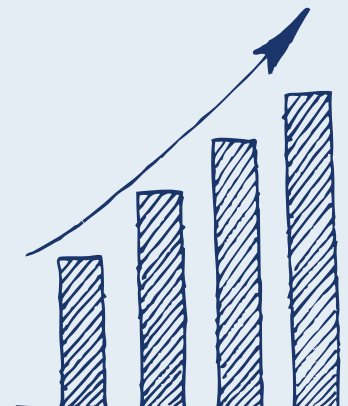
As of December 1st, the Western and Finger Lakes Region has...

Number of Fellows:

99

Number of Local Coordinators:

8



# Non-Fellow Spotlight!

“ Hello! My name is Brian Meyers. I am the Director of Fire and Emergency Management (WY-51) and a Supervisor for the NYSPHC Fellowship Program. The Fellow position, working in conjunction with the Health Department, is assisting with the development of a county Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system, as well as quality improvement, grant applications, and citizen preparedness outreach.



The Wyoming County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is responsible for the overall planning and response coordination for emergencies in the county. The OES will ensure the county is prepared to respond to and recover from all natural and man-made emergencies for our citizens, employers, and visitors. This is accomplished by:

- Administration and presentation of fire and EMS training programs to countywide emergency services personnel
- Comprehensive all hazards pre-disaster planning
- Pre-disaster mitigation planning
- Pre-disaster recovery information and assistance to the general public

Additionally, the OES coordinates trainings for fire and EMS through the New York State Department of Homeland Security and the Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and Control, as well as the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.



**Brian Meyers**  
Wyoming County  
NYSPHC Supervisor  
Director of Fire and  
Emergency Management

## First Annual NYSPHC Fellowship Summit RECAP

November 15 & 16, 2022

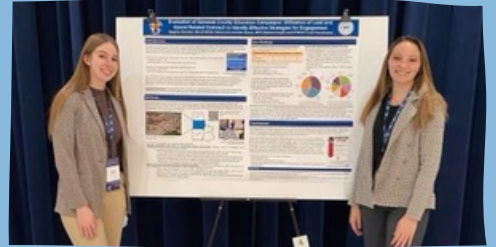
Empire State Plaza Convention Center - Albany, NY



### First Annual NYSPPHC Fellowship Summit RECAP

November 15 & 16, 2022

Empire State Plaza Convention Center - Albany, NY



We would like to extend our sincerest thank you to the Western and Finger Lakes Region Fellows, Local Coordinators, Local Health Departments, Supervisors, Mentors, Community Partners, and all other program participants. The wonderful achievements we were able to accomplish and share at the NYSPPHC Summit would not be possible without every one of you. Thank you to all the fantastic presenters who played a critical role in making the Summit a success. We are so grateful for your contribution. We hope to continue the amazing work in the Western and Finger Lakes Regions and continue to build the NYSPPHC program.

*-Amber, Shelby, Bridget & Sarah*

### Seasonal Recipe Brought to you by Bridget!

#### Slow Cooker Chicken Chili



<https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/my-favorite-slow-cooker-chicken-chili-recipe/>

For more general information regarding the Annual NYSPPHC Summit, please check out the "About NYSPPHC" section on our Training & Resources website!

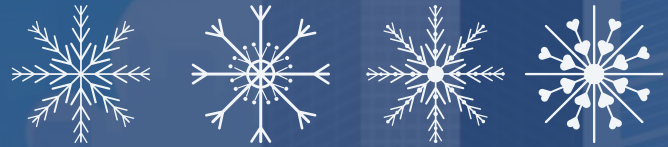
**Find the Annual Summit tab here!**

*If you attended the 2022 NYSPPHC Summit, please complete the Evaluation Survey*



# Reminder: Bookmark the NYSPHC Training & Resources website for quick access!

Training Resource Center | New York State Public Health Corps ([ny.gov](http://ny.gov))



Amber Whiteside and Shelby Smith, our Western & Finger Lakes Region Senior Fellows, recently attended a Career and Job Fair with Houghton University to promote the NYSPHC Fellowship Program!

**NYSPHC Educational Series**  
**Starting December 14, 2022**  
 These are live monthly educational sessions addressing the Core Competencies of Public Health on the Second Wednesday of every month

**Budget and Financial Management**  
 December 14, 2022, from 12-1 PM  
[Register Here](#)

**Policy Engagement**  
 January 11, 2023, from 12-1 PM  
[Register Here](#)

**Upcoming topics to be covered (12-1PM):**  
 Data-Based Decision Making: February 8, 2023  
 Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI): April 12, 2022  
 Change Management: May 10, 2023  
 Grant Writing: July 12, 2023

**QUICK LINKS**  
[NYS DOH](#)  
[NYSPHC](#)

**Let's Connect!**

 **New York State Public Health Corps Fellowship Program**



**Join the NYSPHC LinkedIn Group**

**FINGER LAKES REGION**  
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