



The NYSPHC Fellow Directory



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THE NYSPHC FELLOW DIRECTORY

The Fellow Directory

The NYSPHC Fellow Directory is an index of NYSPHC Fellowship Program Fellows, with a purpose of creating connection between Fellows and fostering community, networking, and communication.

The directory is updated on an as needed basis when Fellows submit their profiles to the program.



ABHISHEK PANDEY

He/Him
B.S., M.S.

 **Suffolk County Department
of Health Services**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Communicable diseases
- Arthropod-borne diseases



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time I enjoy watching and playing many different sports and exercising. I enjoy being outside trying out different bars and restaurants with my friends. Overall, I like being outdoors as it provides a nice reset from a busy work schedule.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I took a cinema class in my undergrad which made me interested in movies. Currently, my favorite movie is Midnight Cowboy.

In my Fellowship position...

I work at the Arthropod-Borne Disease Laboratory, where I focus on educational outreach, surveillance efforts, and data analysis related to mosquito-borne and tick-borne diseases. My responsibilities include developing and delivering surveys aimed at raising awareness about these public health threats. Additionally, I am involved in surveillance activities, which encompass the collection of specimens for pathogen testing. Lastly, I am involved with data analysis efforts for our educational outreach and surveillance testing.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow fits with my larger career goals of becoming an epidemiologist. Through my contributions to surveillance efforts, data analysis, and educational outreach, I am gaining practical insight into the applications of epidemiology in controlling communicable diseases. As well as, learning how public health scientists collaborate with other agencies, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and the general public. These experiences are an essential step toward becoming a complete public health worker and scientist.

CONTACT ME



abhishek.pandey@suffolk
countyny.gov



[https://www.linkedin.com/in/
abhishek-pandey-
a4892518a/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/abhishek-pandey-a4892518a/)



W: 929-329-7071

ADAM ROJAS

He/Him
BA, MS

 **Westchester County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Substance Use
- Violence and Injury Prevention
- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Exercise! :)

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I enjoy traveling!

In my Fellowship position...

- Develop and present health education/promotional material, create brochures, social media and website posts, etc. on public health topics.
- Attend community events, representing the county and providing information on the services we provide.
- Speak and interact with members of the community and other government agencies.
- Research public health topics using reputable sources and attend webinars to gather the most current data and information.
- Develop draft versions of topical brochures and ensure the text is written at or below a sixth grade reading level.
- Source graphics/photos for brochures that complement the department's Westchester Cares brochure series brand.
- Create digital messaging for WCDH social media sites, website, and digital message boards on a variety of public health topics.
- Receive training to develop proficiency in utilizing required platforms and software to create and publish content.
- Attend community events and provide information on WCDH programs and services.
- Shadow and support WCDH outreach staff at events to gain knowledge/experience with interacting with the public and community partners.
- Review event descriptions, focus areas and intended audience to select appropriate materials and tabling supplies to bring to each event.
- Distribute materials and answer questions from residents and community partners about WCDH programs and services.
- Collect contact information to provide attendees with and to add community partners to our distribution lists.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I am very much interested in pursuing health promotion as a career going forward!

CONTACT ME



axrl@westchestercountyny.gov



https://www.linkedin.com/in/adam-rojas-4853a4238/es?trk=people-guest_people_search-card



W: 914-751-9015

ADESHINA

BELLO

He/Him
M.Sc

 **Monroe County**



EXPERIENCE

3-5 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Health equity
- Climate and Health
- General
- Environmental health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Play table tennis

In my Fellowship position...

As a Public Health Fellow III, I assess climate-sensitive health issues by reviewing and synthesizing reports, visualizations, infographics, and literature to foster education, boost local awareness, and guide action planning. I specialize in both quantitative and qualitative data analysis, utilizing tools like R, Excel, SAS, Dedoose, and RedCap. My fellowship focuses on integrating data-driven climate adaptation plans and creating a county-specific climate and environmental health profile.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow provides me with the opportunity to gain hands-on training within a local health department, which is crucial for deepening my understanding of public health practices. Additionally, the Fellowship offers exposure to various capacity-building training programs that will enhance my skills and prepare me for leadership roles in the field. This experience directly aligns with my larger career goals by equipping me with the knowledge and practical expertise to make a meaningful impact on public health initiatives and policies.

CONTACT ME



adeshinabello@monroe
county.gov

oyedebello2@gmail.com



linkedin.com/in/adeshina-
bello



W: 585-944-5480

716-617-1065

AISHWARYA PALAKSHA MURTHY

She/Her
BDS, MPH

 **Monroe County Department
of Public Health**



EXPERIENCE

3-5 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental Health
- Health Literacy
- Health Equity
- Oral Health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy reading books (especially thrillers) and experimenting in the kitchen through cooking and baking. I find that cooking and baking serve as great stress relievers for me, allowing me to unwind and express my creativity.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I am a dentist by profession in India but decided to pursue Public Health as I am passionate about working for the community, which is why I moved to the US 2 years ago.

In my Fellowship position...

In my Fellowship position with the climate change public health team at the MCDPH, I engage in several key activities. I participate in the community climate change task force to provide a public health perspective and foster collaboration among community members, as well as state and local partners.

I am researching the specific needs of my community regarding the climate-related risks they face, as well as identifying available resources to address these challenges. My responsibilities also involve data assessment to support our initiatives. Additionally, I am focused on enhancing climate resilience education across various departments and working collaboratively with them. A significant aspect of my role includes identifying gaps within the community and developing effective solutions to address these issues.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow aligns perfectly with my larger career goals by providing me with invaluable experience at the intersection of public health and climate change. This fellowship allows me to deepen my understanding of how environmental factors impact community health, which is crucial for my aspiration to work in public health policy and advocacy. Through this position, I am developing skills in research, collaboration, and data analysis, all of which are essential for crafting effective public health strategies. Additionally, engaging with community partners and stakeholders equips me with practical insights into the needs and challenges faced by vulnerable populations.



CONTACT ME

 aishwaryapalakshamurthy
@monroecounty.gov

aishpm98@gmail.com



[https://www.linkedin.com/in/
aishwarya-palaksha-murthy](https://www.linkedin.com/in/aishwarya-palaksha-murthy)



W: 585-405-2719

ALEXANDER MORRISON

He/Him
MPH

 **NYSDOH - Albany**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Health Equity
- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy reading, exploring new places (cafes, bubble tea shops, parks, museums), and playing tennis.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I taught as a tennis instructor for three years!

In my Fellowship position...

I work as a member of the Prevention Agenda Team to provide support in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation process of the 2025-2030 New York State Prevention Agenda.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow within the state health department has allowed me to meet a wide variety of stakeholders and play a role in the collaborative process of the Prevention Agenda/State Health Improvement Plan. As this encompasses several areas in public health and works to address the social determinants of health and health equity, being a public health fellow is supporting my larger career goals in working to reduce health disparities on a state/federal level.

CONTACT ME



Alexander.Morrison@health.ny.gov



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexander-morrison-mpH-83175a179/>

ALEXANDRA ROMERO

They/Them, She/Her
MPH

 **New York State Charles D. Cook Office of Rural Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- COVID-19
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- Mental health
- Substance use



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time I love to bake bread and play Baldur's Gate 3 with my partner.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I love to make bread in my new terracotta oven, my current favorite recipe is jalapeno cheddar bread.

In my Fellowship position...

I work with the office to support rural communities through education, programming, and grant work.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

This fellowship is giving me the opportunity to work with underserved communities/populations on a larger scale before I apply to educational programs that work with these same populations but on the level of patient care.

CONTACT ME



alexandra.romero@health.ny.gov

ALICE SPINA

She/Her
MPH



**Office of Minority Health
and Health Disparities
Prevention**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Health Literacy
- Health Equity



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I like to spend time outside, cook and try new foods, and find opportunities to travel.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I am trying to cook with more beans and lentils - let me know if you have any good recipes!

In my Fellowship position...

My Fellowship is in policy development. Currently, I am researching policy related to sickle cell disease to support the Health Equity Council and I support the Racial Equity Working Group as it works to address racism as a public health crisis in the state. I also assist with other Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention legislative charges related to cultural, linguistic, racial and health equity by infusing and evaluating policies aligning with the Department's vision/mission for eliminating health disparities.


How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I hope to use my time as a NYSPHC Fellow to continue learning about the broader themes of public health in practice and to hone my skills in the areas where I am most interested, particularly in working to address and prevent health disparities. I am also excited about connecting with public health professionals across the state, especially our cohort of NYSPHC Fellows.

CONTACT ME

 alice.spina@health.ny.gov

 www.linkedin.com/in/alicespina8

 W: 518-408-5883

ALLYSON CASTELLANI

She/Her
MPH

 **Tompkins Whole Health**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental Health
- Epidemiology



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love to travel, hike, and read.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I used to show horses as a show jumper, a sport I hope to get back into someday.

In my Fellowship position...

I have been working within the Environmental health division for Tompkins County. My role focuses on the drinking water program.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC fellow is a great opportunity to deepen my understanding of work being done at the local level and explore what future path aligns best with my goals.

CONTACT ME



acastellani@tom-pkins-co.org
acastellanil@une.edu



www.linkedin.com/in/allyson-castellani



W: 607-274-6688
716-807-8086

ALYCE BILELLO

She/Her
BS in Public Health

 **Putnam County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Substance Use
- STIs/HIV
- Health Equity
- Child and School Health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Going for walks or hikes, reading thriller or horror books, baking cookies, being out in nature.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I love open toasted grilled cheese - with cinnamon and sugar on top!

In my Fellowship position...

I assist in Public Health Education regarding topics such as youth vaping, opioid overdose education, emergency preparedness, sexual health, mental health, tick borne illness, etc. I attend many community events to represent PCDOH and its services/initiatives. I also assist the Epidemiologist in our Early Childhood Vaccination Intervention, which aims to work with healthcare providers in getting their 2-5 year old patients vaccinated. It's different every day. One day I could be packing for an event, another day I'm attending a meeting with partners on strategies to reduce overdoses. The next week I could be presenting to students about neuroplasticity or attending a training about social interventions through my Fellowship. That's why I love it- there's opportunity to do so much!

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow has been a goal of mine since I was undergrad at UAlbany. They came to table at a job fair, and I fell in love with the idea of being a Fellow. The experience that the Fellowship offers is something I was looking for when I graduated, and I am very grateful to be able to serve my community and start off my public health career strong!



CONTACT ME



alyce.bilello@putnamcounty
ny.gov

[https://www.linkedin.com/in/alyce-b-b2101623b?](https://www.linkedin.com/in/alyce-b-b2101623b?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=ios_app)



[utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=ios_app](https://www.linkedin.com/in/alyce-b-b2101623b?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=ios_app)



W: 845-808-1390 ext. 43147

AMBER PRIOLO

She/Her

 **Fulton County Public Health**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Chronic Disease
- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- COVID-19
- Child and School Health
- Health Equity
- Health Literacy
- Housing Security
- Maternal, Infant, and Family Health
- Mental Health
- Nutrition and Food Security
- Oral Health
- Communicable Disease
- STIs/HIV
- Substance Use
- Violence and Injury Prevention



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Read, eat good food, and hang out with my family and dogs.

In my Fellowship position...

I participate in Partnership Development and Community Outreach by attending local coalition meetings, developing and disseminating health educational materials and delivering these to the community, participating in community tabling events, and developing and providing presentations for local schools and other partners.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow is a fantastic transition from my prior career in veterinary medicine management to Public Health field. It has helped me utilize the skills learned during my education in Healthcare Management and build upon my competency in Public Health. This fellowship offers wonderful guidance in learning where I may want to more specifically enter into the field in the future.

CONTACT ME



amber.priolo@health.ny.gov
apriolo@gmail.com



www.linkedin.com/in/amber-priolo-64023448



W: 518-736-5720 ext. 5724
518-836-8364

AMY STEELE

She/Her



**Pivital Public Health
Partnership**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Community Health
Assessments/Community Health
Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I live in an Old Victorian home. So, I spend a lot of time keeping it up. I like to be outdoors - kayak, swim, hike and bike

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I grew up in Buffalo and recently moved to the Finger Lakes (during COVID).

In my Fellowship position...

I am a Clear Impact Specialist.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

The Fellowship is helping me transition from sales into non-profit.

CONTACT ME



asteel@pivitalphp.org



[https://www.linkedin.com/
in/amy-e-steele-
065323170/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/amy-e-steele-065323170/)

ANNA GIGLIO

She/They



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Reaccreditation



ABOUT ME

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I am a twin!

In my Fellowship position...

I have been taking the lead on the development of our next Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan. I have also worked in collaboration with the other fellows and team leads in our county health department to have our organization reaccredited under the Public Health Accreditation Board.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow is providing me with new skills and experiences that make me a more well-rounded individual. As someone with a background in business management, I think that it is important to understand how all types of organizations operate in order to better manage resources and provide the best experience to those utilizing our services.

CONTACT ME



anmgiglio@cattco.org



W: 716-801-1264

ANNIKA SMITH

She/Her
MS

 **Erie County Health Department**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience

FOCUS AREAS

- General

ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love to travel, explore new places around Buffalo, and play trivia.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I have been to 30 countries.

In my Fellowship position...

I am focusing on communications in the Erie County Department of Health. I create communications materials for the website and social media, as well as content for departmental events and programming. I also assist with drafting press releases and emergency and risk communications for the county.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow allows me to strengthen my writing skills and work with all the departments in the DOH. This allows me to see what I like and don't like. I am getting a lot of experience in many different topics.

CONTACT ME

 annika.smith@erie.gov

 www.linkedin.com/in/annika-smith-805615208

ARIEL COMPERE

She/Her

 **Suffolk County Health
Department**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Chronic Disease
- Environmental Health
- Communicable Disease
- Tuberculosis



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Reading, trying new restaurants and exploring Long Island

In my Fellowship position...

In my Fellowship position, I focus on managing and raising awareness about tuberculosis (TB). I assist civil surgeons by helping link individuals to appropriate care and treatment, ensuring they receive the medical support they need. A key part of my role involves coordinating TB evaluations for immigration purposes, as required by law. I work closely with patients, educating them on TB transmission, prevention, and the importance of treatment adherence. Additionally, I help ensure that the community is well-informed about TB risks and resources. My work is primarily based in Suffolk County, under the Bureau of Chest Diseases. This position allows me to contribute to public health efforts in TB control and prevention, with a focus on connecting people to necessary services and improving health outcomes.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow aligns perfectly with my long-term goal of making a meaningful impact on public health and helping the community. This fellowship provides me with hands-on experience in managing critical health issues like tuberculosis and connecting people to essential care. I'm able to directly contribute to improving health outcomes, which is central to my career aspirations. The skills and knowledge I'm gaining will support my future work in public health, allowing me to continue advocating for underserved populations. Ultimately, this experience is a stepping stone toward a lifelong commitment to improving community health.

CONTACT ME



ariel.compere@suffolkcountyny.gov

ariel.ecompere@gmail.com



www.linkedin.com/in/arielcompere



631-518-0658

ARVINJON CALPOTURA

He/Him
MPH

 **Bureau of Cancer
Epidemiology**



CONTACT ME



Arvinjon.Calpotura@health.ny.gov
ac5193@caa.columbia.edu



[https://www.linkedin.com/in/
ajcalpoturamph](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ajcalpoturamph)



W: 518-408-5883



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Chronic Disease
- Health Equity



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

After moving to Albany, I like to go on a lot of hikes and nature walks and take advantage

of New York's environment and nice fall weather. However, I also love to ski and will start to visit the state's mountains and snow resorts more often when the winter season arrives!

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I spent a whole summer in Puerto Rico for an internship with the CDC working with their dengue surveillance system on the island! Also, I have went skiing at least once a year since learning in elementary school and have been loving it since!

In my Fellowship position...

I have been working in the Bureau of Cancer Epidemiology's Extramural Research Unit and their studies to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in cancer care and outcomes. Some of these duties include identifying and implementing strategies for improving community outreach and engagement in patient contact studies and contributing to research on cancer disparities through analyses of study and Registry data.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

The NYSPHC Fellowship has been beneficial in honing my skills and necessary knowledge needed to work in a research position in the epidemiology field. I hope to use these experiences of working in the New York State Department of Health in my future career endeavors of helping underserved communities throughout the country and eventually in a global health capacity.

ASHLEY KWONG

She/Her
B.S. Public Health

 **Westchester County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental Health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time I like to read, travel, try new restaurants and enjoy live music!

In my Fellowship position...

I support the Environmental Health division with program management, organizational development, and administrative tasks. My work focuses on streamlining the digitalization of environmental health records—such as those related to food service establishments and childhood lead exposure—and developing efficient records management systems and workflow processes. I manage and clean data for these initiatives to ensure accuracy and usability. Additionally, I contribute to project management efforts for the lead prevention program, which aims to remediate lead contaminated properties housing children with elevated blood lead levels.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

The NYSPHC Fellowship has given me valuable hands-on experience and opportunities to build strong professional relationships with public health leaders and community stakeholders. These experiences align with my long-term goal of advancing health equity and improving population health outcomes through data-driven strategies.

CONTACT ME



azk1@westchestercountyny.gov
ashleykwong18@gmail.com



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashleykwong/>



W: 914-864-7165

BINITA MAHATO

She/Her



**St. Lawrence Health
Initiative**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Child and school health
- Chronic disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans (CHA/CHIP)
- COVID-19
- Environmental health
- Health equity
- Health literacy
- General
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- Mental health
- Nutrition and food security
- Public health infrastructure development
- STIs/HIV
- Substance use
- Violence and injury prevention



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I am avid traveler, when I get a chance, I love traveling to new places and experience new culture.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

traveling and cooking

In my Fellowship position...

I work as a Centre Business Development Specialist, where I oversee the data collected from the workshops that we conduct and their consents. I work on apps like Compass, Redcap, HIXNY, Healthconnections. I work closely with the peer leaders and partners and helps them with their special need/ supports. I also analyze existing partner relationships; identify gaps or issues as needed.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I come from business and management background but always had dream of working in public health and make the difference. With this fellowship I gained two years of experience in this field this will help me grow professionally in public health.



CONTACT ME



Binita@gethealthyslc.org

Binita.mahato55@gmail.com



[https://www.linkedin.com/in/
binita-mahato-662706187/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/binita-mahato-662706187/)



W: 603-290-2066

315-690-8973

BRANDON BRODIE

He/Him

 **St. Mary's Healthcare**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Health Equity
- Health Literacy
- Housing Security
- Nutrition and Food Security
- Public Health Infrastructure Development



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy hanging out and spending time with my friends, family, and girlfriend, taking naps, playing video games, going on hikes, going to the gym, and working on my car.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I have two dogs, a female labrador, golden retriever, and beagle mix and a purebred golden retriever, who is just a puppy. They are my world and I love them more than anything!

In my Fellowship position...

I attend local events with my co-workers to provide resources, educate, and inform our community on various topics such as cancer prevention and screening. I also stock and organize the mission cupboard food pantries at both of our campuses and will be working on getting more patients registered, signed up, and using our patient portal in order to have easier access to their health records, information, past visits, and upcoming appointments.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow fits in my larger career goals by further expanding my experience, knowledge, and interest in the field of healthcare, particularly public health.

CONTACT ME

 bbrodie@nysmha.org

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/brandon-brodie>

BRAYAN GARCIA SORIANO

He/Him

 **Westchester County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Health Equity
- Communicable Disease



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I spend time with my family, catch up on tv shows/books, explore new restaurants, and dance salsa and other Latin dances.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I have been in a boba tea ad and a skin care company photo campaign.

In my Fellowship position...

I work as a patient navigator in the Westchester DOH Clinic. I help connect patients from our clinics to primary care, specialty care, and other community resources. Additionally, I am fluent in both English and Spanish helping me better communicate with a larger portion of the population we serve.


How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow is allowing me to gain valuable experience in the public health field with the hope to take this experience to further my education through an MPH in the future. I hope to continue working with underserved communities throughout my career in public health.

CONTACT ME

 [bgs1@westchestercounty
ny.gov](mailto:bgs1@westchestercounty.ny.gov)

 [www.linkedin.com/in/brayan
-garcia-soriano](https://www.linkedin.com/in/brayan-garcia-soriano)

 W: 914-995-3752

BRITTANI MCKAY

She/Her
MS



CONTACT ME



brittani.mckay@health.ny.gov



[LinkedIn.com/in/brittanimckay](https://www.linkedin.com/in/brittanimckay)



EXPERIENCE

5+ Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Child and School Health
- Chronic Disease
- Health Equity
- Housing Security
- Maternal, Infant, and Family Health
- Mental Health
- STIs/HIV
- Substance Use



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time I love to travel and experience new cultures! I also own a photography business, Just B McKay Photography.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I have an identical twin sister.

In my Fellowship position...

In my current role at the NYS Department of Health, under the AIDS Institute's Office of Drug User Health (ODUH). My role includes managing NYS and Federal contracts for agencies that provide syringe exchange and harm reduction services. I also assist in leading and developing partnerships and coordinating projects related to reproductive health and to women, pregnant and parenting people who use drugs (PWUD), for the Women Who Use Drugs (WWUD) workgroup.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

This Fellowship provides me practical, hands-on experience within a robust public health system. It allows me to gain additional skills development and allows for a great opportunity for networking and mentorship with other public health professionals. In addition, it greatly exposes me to observing policymaking and program development from a state level, to build an understanding of how health policies are developed, funded, and executed in health administration.

CHLOE NAUMAN

She/Her
MPH

 **Greene County**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Unspecified communicable disease
- Public health infrastructure development
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans (CHA/CHIP)



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love hiking with friends, hosting dinner parties with board and card games, and doing puzzles while watching reality tv.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I am an aspiring Catskills 3500 club member (summit all 33 peaks of the Catskill mountains above 3500 ft elevation on foot) and hope to complete this within the 2 years I will be living in the Catskills for this fellowship!

In my Fellowship position...

I am leading the strategic planning process for Greene County Public Health as well as the accreditation process to meet PHAB accreditation standards.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I am gaining lots of leadership experience through this fellowship by managing groups to complete work in strategic planning and accreditation. While my larger career goals are in infectious disease epidemiology, these skills will definitely transform and develop me for the long run as a public health professional.

CONTACT ME



cnauman@greencountyny.gov



www.linkedin.com/in/chloe-nauman-mpH-2008561a2



W: 518-719-3610

CHRIS CRAWFORD

He/Him
BS, MUP, PhD

 **Cattaraugus County Health
Department**



EXPERIENCE

5+ Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental Health
- Public Health Infrastructure
Development



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love walking my dog and being outside.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I speak a little Tongan.

In my Fellowship position...

I work on institutional development efforts within the Cattaraugus County Health Department surrounding Public Health Accreditation Board Standard's and Measurers for accreditation. In doing so, I provide training, policy and procedure development, technological tool development and data services.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

As I get to the end of my career, I am hoping to set in motion those efforts that will continue after I am gone. Institutional development does that.

CONTACT ME



cgcrawford@catco.org



[https://www.linkedin.com/
in/chris-crawford-
environmental-scientist/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/chris-crawford-environmental-scientist/)



W: 716-954-9117


CLAUDIA CHARLES

She/Her
MPH

 **Nassau County**



CONTACT ME

 Ccharles@nassaucountyny.gov



EXPERIENCE

5+ Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Maternal, infant, and family health



ABOUT ME

In my Fellowship position...

Referral, support the administration staff.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

It allows me to get some administration background, and to understand how to manage a program.

COLETTE MCDONALD

She/Her

 **Buffalo and Erie County
Food Policy Council**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health Experience

FOCUS AREAS

- Health Equity
- Nutrition and Food Security

ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Hike, camp, play with my dog.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I grew up in a log cabin in Upstate NY.

In my Fellowship position...

My role involves coordinating Food Policy Council (FPC) meetings, developing agendas, taking meeting minutes, drafting memos and quarterly reports, representing the FPC at community events, etc. The FPC's mission is to advocate for a sustainable and equitable local food system through policy suggestions to Erie County leadership.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Long term, I see myself working in public service through a government entity that focuses on improving community wellbeing.

CONTACT ME

 Colette.McDonald@erie.gov

[https://www.linkedin.com/in/colette-mcdonald-490b28b7?
utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=android_app](https://www.linkedin.com/in/colette-mcdonald-490b28b7?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=android_app)



W: 716-858-8172

CORIN DU BOIS

He/Him
MA



**Nassau County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Health Equity
- Nutrition and Food Security



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

When I have free time, I love hitting the gym for some weightlifting, going for a run, or taking a Pilates or spin class. I also enjoy relaxing with some Real Housewives and trying out new restaurants (or bars). I also shop a lot. I love clothes.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I have a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

In my Fellowship position...

In my Fellowship position, I manage programs aimed at addressing food insecurity among seniors and vulnerable populations in Nassau County, particularly in densely populated areas like Hempstead, Elmont, Baldwin, Roosevelt, and Uniondale. I conduct data analysis and metrics tracking for the Health Equity Resource Center to ensure our initiatives are effective and impactful. I also coordinate efforts with various interagency partners within the county to enhance our outreach and resource distribution. Additionally, I engage with organizations that align with our mission to strengthen our collective efforts in addressing these critical issues.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow aligns perfectly with my larger career goals of becoming a director of public health programs and potentially pursuing a PhD in public health or a clinical terminal degree. This role allows me to explore systems and improve their efficiency, ensuring that vulnerable populations receive the resources they need most. The experience I've gained in program management is invaluable, as it provides me with the skills and knowledge that are often hard to come by early in one's career. Overall, this fellowship is an essential stepping stone toward achieving my aspirations in public health leadership.



CONTACT ME



cdubois@nassaucountyny.gov



www.linkedin.com/in/corindubois



W: 516-572-1934

DALTON ELSER

He/Him

 **Cayuga County Health
Department**



EXPERIENCE

3-5 Years of Public
Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental Health
- Housing Security
- Lead and Healthy
Neighborhoods



ABOUT ME

In my Fellowship position...

I'm heavily involved in our Lead Prevention Program and am an EPA Lead Risk Assessor. I also spend a lot of my time assisting the operations of our Healthy Neighborhoods Program. I have also assisted multiple other programs and areas as well.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Professional experience in government, policy, and operations.

CONTACT ME



[delsers@cayugacounty.us](mailto:delser@cayugacounty.us)



W: 315-294-8087

DAMARIS DANIELS

She/Her

 **Schenectady Public County Health Services**



EXPERIENCE

5+ Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Maternal, Infant, and Family Health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I lift weights and run. I like theater and movies. I love to read and sew. I am a project hopper! I love to try to learn new skills or take up another hobby. Knitting is next on the list!

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I am working on deadlifting. My personal record is 120lbs.

In my Fellowship position...

I am working for a non-profit organization that focuses on helping pregnant people and parents with external and internal needs. We offer support groups, events like baby showers, and items for your child like car seats and diapers. The goal is to give support to help decrease stress and positively impact birth outcomes in infants, and better relationships between parents and their children.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I see it as a great way to immerse myself deeper in my area of public health and other ones too. I would love to be able to network with others that are doing work similar to mine. I am also enjoying the learning experience. Seeing firsthand what others are accomplishing and working on is fascinating. I feel it can only help in my own career goals, as many fields intersect with each other.



CONTACT ME

 damaris.daniels@momstarts
here.org

 damaris.daniels@schenectady
countyny.gov



[https://www.linkedin.com/in/damaris-daniels-481304321?
trk=contact-info](https://www.linkedin.com/in/damaris-daniels-481304321?trk=contact-info)



518-620-3310 ext.4

DIANE DAVIS

She/Her
M.S. Nursing

 **Allegany County**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Child and School Health
- Chronic Disease
- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- COVID-19
- Environmental Health
- Health Equity
- Maternal, Infant, and Family Health
- Mental Health
- Violence and Injury Prevention



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Piano, baking, walking, downhill skiing, and swimming

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I am a concert pianist.

In my Fellowship position...

I am currently reviewing all programs for barriers and/or service gaps and focusing on how our current programs have been affected by COVID-19. I also look at all other aspects of covid. My major project is to work on the 2025 Community Assessment Questionnaire with the Public Health Director and to make connections in our service area to create bridges.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I desire a permanent full-time position in Public Health but come from the critical care setting. This Fellowship will allow me to work with every program this county offers to see where my experience and expertise may be appreciated.

CONTACT ME



Diane.Davis@alleganyco.gov
davisd8587@gmail.com



W: 585-268-5033
607-382-3761

DORIAN JOHNSON

He/Him



**Suffolk County
Health Department**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Health Equity
- Health Literacy
- Substance Use



ABOUT ME

In my Fellowship position...

In the Office of Health Education, I am responsible for facilitating programs for the community, schools, and public organizations. These programs have the goal of reducing harmful behaviors that can lead to the development of co-morbidities.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

With leadership development training and experience, I believe at the end of the Fellowship, I'll have the skills to lean into cross sectoral partnerships and influence health policy to reduce health disparities and promote health equity.

CONTACT ME



dorian.johnson@suffolk
countyny.gov



linkedin.com/in/dorianjo

ELANA JENKINS

She/Her
MPH



**Nassau County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

3-5 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Chronic disease
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans (CHA/CHIP)
- COVID-19
- Health equity
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- Nutrition and food security
- Violence and injury prevention
- STIs/HIV
- Substance use
- Housing security
- Health literacy
- General
- Child and school health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Go to concerts/plays, lift weights and go to brunch.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

My favorite Television show is The Twilight Zone

In my Fellowship position...

Work in Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Planning Department at Nassau County Department of Health. Our department is the datahub for the county and provide data points, reports, dashboards and story-maps for all departments. I am a liaison for our department and Health Equity, and I also sit on Nassau County DOH Perinatal board.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

After finishing grad school, I needed an opportunity to work in my concentration and also have guidance, build a network and share resources. I am able to work as an Epidemiologist here at Nassau County Department of Health and gain experience before moving on to something more permanent.



E

CONTACT ME



ejenkins@nassaucountyny.gov



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/elana-jenkins-825441167>



W: 516-225-5419

EMILY ALTA

She/Her

 Orange County Department
of Health



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Health Literacy
- Health Equity



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I like to hang out with my friends and family, read mystery books, watch anime, go on hikes, volunteer with local organizations, and chronically watch IG reel memes.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I actually have a scar on my right knee because I fell from a 2 story home and didn't break any bones.

In my Fellowship position...

I am the Communications Fellow. I drive community engagement via various social media channels.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC fellow fits my larger career goals by providing hands-on experience in public health communication and community engagement, both of which are essential to my long-term vision of improving health outcomes and promoting health equity.

CONTACT ME

 ealta@orangecountygov.com

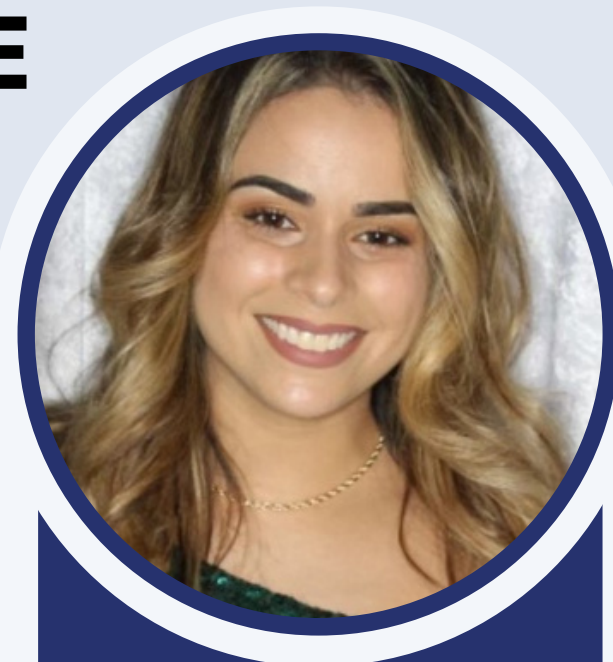
 [https://www.linkedin.com/
in/emilyalta/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/emilyalta/)

EMILY APONTE

She/Her



Orange County Department of
Public Health Emergency
Preparedness



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Emergency Preparedness/Response
- Violence and Injury Prevention



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I am a mother, and I love to take my son to places like the zoo, aquarium, the park, and anywhere he can learn and experience different things. When my son is with his dad, I love to workout at the gym or go do fun active things with my friends.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I did CrossFit 5 out of 7 days for the 42 weeks of my pregnancy OR that I fell asleep during my knee being tattooed! haha

In my Fellowship position...

I work on emergency preparedness/ response plans for Orange County. I help complete deliverables for NYS. I may act as a liaison for the health department when an emergency in the county happens and retrieve receive materials and help for those in need.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I think being a NYSPHC Fellow fits in with my larger career goals because I want to work in emergency services, and I believe sometimes they forget that there is always a public health component to every emergency or disaster. I believe that when I am working in Emergency services, I will always remember to include public health.

CONTACT ME



eamonte@orangecountygov.com



www.linkedin.com/in/emilyraponte



W: 845-615-3892

EMILY LUMBIS

She/Her
MPH, CHES



**Albany County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental Health



ABOUT ME

In my Fellowship position...

I work in the Environmental Health department in the lead poisoning prevention program. I have been working on data entry and analysis for various projects in the lead program and have helped with case management and field inspections for lead poisonings.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

In the future, I want to work in county or state level public health. Being a NYSPHC Fellow has allowed me to experience working at the county level and make connections with individuals who work for the state. It has also allowed me to work on a variety of projects and exposed me to new fields of public health.

CONTACT ME



Emily.Lumbis@albanycounty
ny.gov



[www.linkedin.com/in/emily-
lumbis-mph-ches-3661a0203](https://www.linkedin.com/in/emily-lumbis-mph-ches-3661a0203)

EMILY NOJEIM

She/Her

 **Genesee and Orleans
County Health
Departments (GO Health)**



EXPERIENCE

3-5 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Mental Health
- Community Health
Assessments/Community Health
Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)



ABOUT ME

In my Fellowship position...

In the Office of Health Education my role with the Health Education team at the Genesee and Orleans County Health Departments (GO Health), I collaborate closely with the mental health departments of both counties. My work focuses on addressing the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) within the community and supporting efforts to make the health departments and the Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming (GOW) region trauma-informed. Additionally, I help inform the public of the mental health resources that are available in the community.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I was a part of Fellowship 1.0, which gave me the chance to explore various paths within the public health field. Through this experience, I've discovered a passion for mental health as well as a strong interest in public health education. The NYSPHC has been instrumental in helping me refine my career focus, and I am excited to continue working in these areas moving forward.

CONTACT ME



emily.nojeim@geneseeny.gov

EMILY PALMER

She/Her
MA

 **Cayuga County Health
Department**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental Health
- Health Literacy
- Public Health
- Emergency Preparedness



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy reading, international travel, learning other languages, and different forms of arts/crafts like drawing, painting, knitting, and jewelry making.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I lived in England for a year while studying for my MA!

In my Fellowship position...

I support the Environmental division and the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant through various projects. I focus on program/project sustainability as I work with content creation, program development, community events, data entry, and I assist with other grants and programs as needed.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I plan to continue to learn all I can while I'm a Fellow, as the transferable skills I attain will support any future career endeavors. The various types of writing, health literacy tools, quality assurance and improvement skills, and building community/partner engagement are helpful in any field. I'm hoping to find my next career steps after the Fellowship.

CONTACT ME



epalmer@cayugacounty.us



[https://www.linkedin.com/
in/emily-palmer-
224906152](https://www.linkedin.com/in/emily-palmer-224906152)



W: 315-294-8044

EMILY REINHARDT

She/Her
M.S. Natural Resources
& Ecology

 **Clinton County Health
Department**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental Health
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)



ABOUT ME

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I can juggle!

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time I enjoy trying new foods, making puzzles, going on road trips and attending local events.

In my Fellowship position...

I am working in the Environmental Health & Safety Division working with various datasets like individual sewage treatment systems, wells, public water systems and PFAS contaminated sites and mapping them. This allows us to run queries to answer questions like: how many public water systems are within 200 feet of a contaminated site? or how far is the nearest river or stream from the proposed septic system?

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

This Fellowship opportunity is allowing me to gain valuable work experience and further develop my skills in GIS mapping, data management and analysis. I am discovering all of what a local health department is responsible for and what programs are offered. I am excited to shadow sanitarians in the field and see the intersections between environmental science and public health. Additionally, I have the opportunity to collaborate with the Clinton County Planning Department regularly.

CONTACT ME



emily.reinhardt@clinton
countyny.gov

er.reinhardt@icloud.com



[https://www.linkedin.com/in/
emily-reinhardt-960218263](https://www.linkedin.com/in/emily-reinhardt-960218263)

ENJOLI LYON

She/Her
BSHA

 **Wayne County Aging and Youth**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Child and School Health
- Housing Security
- Mental Health
- Nutrition and Food Security



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Camping, fishing, spend time with family.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

My favorite movie is Wizard of Oz!

In my Fellowship position...

I work with the runaway and homeless youth population.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

My goal is to bring awareness to the homeless issue in Wayne County, get an accurate number and once there is awareness, collaborate with local agencies to help the homeless get off the street, secure housing, and get the help they need.

CONTACT ME



enjoli.lyon@waynecountyny.gov

lyon.jackson14@gmail.com



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/enjoli-lyon-258aa512b>



W: 315-317-9259

315-359-1206

ERICA WINTER

she/her
MBA



**Westchester County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

5+ Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- COVID-19
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Health equity
- Administration
- Public health infrastructure development



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I engage in volunteer work, community organizing, and advocacy efforts. I was deeply involved in leading a local campaign that moved the Pelham Manor village election from March to November. I serve as Membership Chair of the Junior League of Pelham and serve on the Westchester County Women's Advisory Board.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I consider myself a third culture kid, having grown up in a multilingual household and having lived and worked in multiple countries.

In my Fellowship position...

In my current role, I lead initiatives focused on policy development, compliance and employee engagement to foster a safe, inclusive, and equitable workplace. I draft trauma-informed and inclusive policies, ensure regulatory and safety compliance, and conduct independent investigations. I lead change management initiatives, champion diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts, and implement the telework program. I contribute to the community health improvement plans, develop safety protocols, and collaborate with stakeholders on programs that address other critical needs.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

This role aligns with my larger career goals of driving meaningful change within organizations by fostering equitable, inclusive, and people-centered workplaces. It allows me to combine my expertise in policy development, employee relations, ethics, and compliance with my passion for advocacy and organizational transformation. This position furthers my commitment to advancing ethical and transformative leadership across organizations.

CONTACT ME



erbr@westchestercountyny.gov



[linkedin.com/in/ericawinter](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ericawinter)



W: 914-813-5015

FRANCIS GRANDIS

They/Them



**Schenectady County
Public Health Services**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental health
- COVID-19
- STIs/HIV
- Emergency Preparedness
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans (CHA/CHIP)



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy getting into nature and exploring the nearby mountain ranges and lakes through hiking, kayaking, and biking local trails. I also take part in crafting workshops around the Capital Region and Hudson Valley, and I help tend a community garden plot with my family. Lately, I've been learning to roller skate, which has been a fun new challenge. I'm a member of the Honest Weight Co-op and, when I can, I volunteer by preparing food for the local Food Not Bombs chapter.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

A fun fact about me is that I'm learning to identify invasive species using the iMapInvasives app. I'm hoping to eventually contribute to monitoring efforts at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve.

In my Fellowship position...

As a fellow at Schenectady County Public Health Services, I have contributed to a wide range of public health initiatives spanning emergency preparedness, communicable disease prevention, community health planning, and environmental health. I collaborated closely with the Emergency Preparedness unit to organize and facilitate the county's Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) Workshop, bringing together community stakeholders and county leadership. My contributions to the IPP focused on ensuring the inclusion of populations with access and functional needs, as well as supporting the development of the county's Pandemic Viral Respiratory Disease Response Plan (PVRDRP). To further inform future pandemic planning, I designed and implemented a survey for both providers and community members, conducted a qualitative analysis of the responses, and had my resulting abstract accepted for presentation at the New York State Public Health Corps (NYSPHC) Summit. In partnership with the Communicable Disease unit, I supported the delivery of sexual health education at the weekly STI clinic held at Hometown Health. I also played an active role in the Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP), contributing to both data collection and community outreach efforts. Additionally, I helped facilitate the first MyPI New York cohort in Schenectady County, an emergency preparedness education program designed to empower teens with essential readiness skills. As my fellowship progressed, I transitioned into Environmental Health, supporting the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), where I contributed to efforts aimed at reducing lead exposure risks in vulnerable populations.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow allowed me to explore the broad scope of public health and helped me discover a strong interest in environmental health. Through this experience, I was able to secure a position as an Environmental Health Specialist at a local health department—an opportunity that aligns perfectly with my passion for serving my home city, improving community health, and continuing to grow professionally, particularly in the area of climate change preparedness.



F

CONTACT ME



francis.grandis@schenectady
countyny.gov

fgrandis@pm.me



W: 518-386-2824

518-545-8138

GABRIELLA STEINBERG

She/Her

 **Suffolk County Division of
Community Mental Hygiene
Services**



EXPERIENCE

BS Global and Public Health Sciences

0-1 Years of Public Health Experience

FOCUS AREAS

- Health Equity
- Mental Health
- Substance Use
- Quality Improvement

ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love to cook, read, play with my cat, and explore new places with friends and family.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

One fun fact about me is that I recently started volunteering to phonebank and canvas for local politicians I believe in. I believe civic engagement and advocacy are incredibly important and relevant for anyone, but especially public health professionals.

In my Fellowship position...


My role involves analyzing quantitative and qualitative survey data from the county's Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) clinics in order to identify strengths, weaknesses, and potential inequities of the OTP clinics. I also assist with the creation, distribution, and analysis of an updated OTP clinic staff survey. Both of these projects are meant to inform choices made by the OTP's Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) committee, which aims to improve care quality and health equity in order to meet standards set and recommendations made by the Joint Commission, the accrediting body for OTP programs across the country recognized by SAMHSA.


How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

The Fellowship program aligns well with my public health education. The experience of working for a county government agency will expand my real-world public health experience, making me more qualified for other public health roles in the future (especially in government). The data analysis and independent project management involved in my role is helping me grow into a more confident, proactive, and skilled public health leader and researcher. I am interested in pursuing a PhD in Public Health and then working in a leadership capacity in government or another public health entity focused on implementing best practices. Moreover, I believe the skills I'm learning will be very relevant to completing my PhD and subsequent career goals.

CONTACT ME

 gabriella.steinberg@suffolkcountyny.gov

 <https://url.us.mimecastprotect.com/s/sap4CjRwYkFRPGM7sRhWFmo6qT?domain=linkedin.com>

 W: 631-853-8553

GABRIELLE ROOSEVELT

She/Her
MPH

 **NYSDOH - Oneonta District Office**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental health
- Health equity
- Public health infrastructure development



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Regenerative Farming, Hiking, Reading, PC Gaming, Attending Concerts, and Visual Arts & Crafts

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I went on a 2-week expedition of mainland Japan in Fall 2023 where I explored the unique and exciting culture and terrains/environments of Nagano, Mt. Fuji, Osaka, Kobe, and Tokyo. I would love to return in the near future to explore more of Japan!

In my Fellowship position...

As a public health sanitarian specializing in public water systems, I engage in the following activities:

- o Monitoring regulated facilities compliance with the U.S. EPA drinking water standards and NYS Sanitary Code SubPart 5-1 environmental health regulations through routine data collection and analysis, including field inspections of federal and non-federal public water supplies within our regional office's three jurisdictional counties;
- o Environmental health surveillance measures of drinking water quality through water sampling and thorough sanitary surveys of water sources, treatment/disinfection components, distribution systems, required documentation, and the surrounding environment;
- o Community outreach with regulated water system owner/operators and local community members to identify any concerns or confusion and to provide education on the NYS sanitary code requirements and the purpose of water supply protection;
- o Creating and managing local environmental health databases for the water supply protection program to monitor drinking water quality indicators and compliance;
- o Issuing boil water orders for facilities with public health hazards identified within their water system and addressing noncompliance with standardized enforcement actions.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow fits in with my larger career goal as a demonstration of my dedication to serve my local communities, especially underserved communities, by being a part of a massive interdisciplinary team who are passionate about achieving health equity through a diverse multitude of public health initiatives at various levels. This fellowship has provided me with a valuable opportunity to engage in my passion for protecting and promoting environmental health. Thanks to this fellowship, I have enhanced my expertise in program management, community outreach, and public health sanitarian-specific knowledge/skills. Currently, I feel very confident and excited to fully commit to environmental health specialist/sanitarian work as my primary career to help serve and protect our local communities and achieve health equity.

CONTACT ME



gabrielle.roosevelt@health.ny.gov
gabrielle.roosevelt@alumni.albany.edu



https://www.linkedin.com/in/gabrielle-roosevelt-09406825b?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=ios_app



W: 607-376-2663
518-424-2888

GIAVONNA ROSSI

She/Her
MPH

 **Suffolk County Department
of Health Services**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Communicable Disease
- Arthropod-Borne Diseases



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy reading and baking. Reading allows me to unwind and explore a variety of topics, while baking gives me a creative outlet and a chance to experiment with new recipes. Both activities provide a nice balance to my busy schedule and allow me to relax and recharge.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

A fun fact about me is that my perfect day would involve a mix of all my favorite activities: starting with a delicious cup of coffee, followed by a trip to pick out new books. I'd spend some time on a craft project, enjoy some pizza, bake a batch of cookies, and then wind down by watching one of my favorite movies or TV shows. It's a perfect blend of creativity, comfort, and relaxation!

In my Fellowship position...

I work at the Arthropod-Borne Disease Laboratory, where I focus on educational outreach and surveillance efforts related to mosquito-borne and tick-borne diseases. My responsibilities include developing and delivering informative programs aimed at raising awareness about these public health threats. Additionally, I am involved in surveillance activities, which encompass the collection of specimens for pathogen testing and maintaining accurate, detailed records of the data gathered throughout the process.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow at the Arthropod-Borne Disease Laboratory aligns perfectly with my long-term career goal of becoming an epidemiologist specializing in zoonotic-borne diseases. This Fellowship provides me with invaluable hands-on experience in the field of vector-borne disease surveillance and research, offering insight into the critical processes behind pathogen monitoring and outbreak prevention. By contributing to surveillance efforts and educational outreach, I am gaining a deeper understanding of the practical applications of epidemiology in zoonotic disease control. This experience is an essential step toward building a solid foundation for my future career and making meaningful contributions to public health.



CONTACT ME



giavonna.rossi@suffolk
countyny.gov



[https://www.linkedin.com/
in/giavonna-rossi/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/giavonna-rossi/)



W: 631-852-4062

HAILEY QUINTAVALLE

She/Her



**St. Lawrence County
Public Health Department**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Mental Health
- Oral Health
- Chronic Disease



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time I like to read, watch movies, spend time with friends/family, and play with my dog.

In my Fellowship position...

My primary focus is advocating for improved oral health (mainly in early childhood) and preventing chronic diseases through lead poisoning prevention, as well as promoting mental health/wellness.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

My ultimate goal is to pursue a graduate degree in clinical/counseling psychology, and this position will grant me the opportunity to work directly with those in the health field, pushing me to recognize and understand the health needs of local communities, while gaining valuable communication skills along the way.

CONTACT ME



hquintavalle@stlawco.gov
haileyquintavalle@gmail.com



[https://www.linkedin.com/
in/hailey-quintavalle-
b8071221b/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/hailey-quintavalle-b8071221b/)

HASSAN MASROOR

He/Him

MBBS (equivalent to US MD), MS
in Health Care Management

 **Rockland County Region 7**



EXPERIENCE

3-5 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Chronic Disease
- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- COVID-19
- Environmental Health
- Mental Health
- Health Literacy
- Communicable Disease



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I love playing soccer and cricket, which keeps me active and connected with friends. I also enjoy watching football, following KC Chiefs, and getting immersed in video games like FIFA, Elden Ring, and Call of Duty. On weekends, you'll often find me hosting BBQs, enjoying good food and great company. It's a perfect way to relax and unwind!

What is a fun fact about yourself?

A fun fact about me is that I'm a history buff. I love diving into historical events and figures and can talk about it for hours! Whether it's ancient civilizations or modern history, I find it all fascinating.

In my Fellowship position...

I am focusing on investigations of enteric diseases and vaccine-preventable diseases, I engage in key activities:

- Surveillance and Data Collection: I monitor and analyze data related to outbreaks and trends of enteric and vaccine-preventable diseases, working with health departments to gather information on cases.
- Public Health Education: I contribute to educational campaigns aimed at raising awareness about prevention strategies for both enteric and vaccine-preventable diseases, creating materials and engaging with communities.
- Collaboration and Reporting: I work closely with interdisciplinary teams, including epidemiologists and public health officials, to report findings and inform policy decisions.
- Evaluation of Vaccination Programs: I assess the effectiveness of vaccination programs and their impact on disease prevalence, helping to shape future public health initiatives.

This Fellowship enhances my understanding of disease dynamics and strengthens my capacity to contribute to public health interventions.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow aligns perfectly with my larger career goals by providing valuable experience in public health and policy. It offers the opportunity to work on real-world challenges, collaborate with experts, and contribute to meaningful projects that can impact community health. This fellowship will enhance my skills in research, advocacy, and program implementation, positioning me to take on leadership roles in public health in the future. Overall, it's a crucial step toward achieving my vision of driving systemic change in health equity and access.

CONTACT ME



masroorh@co.rockland.ny.us



[linkedin.com/in/hassan-masroor/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/hassan-masroor/)



W: 845-263-5241

HILLARY BEAUDOUIN

She/Her
BA

 **Onondaga County Health
Department**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Substance Use
- Maternal, Infant, and Family Health
- Health Equity



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love to read books, play with my cats, and attend fitness classes such as pilates.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I was born on Long Island but raised in Haiti

In my Fellowship position...

Currently, I am a NYS Fellow III for Onondaga County Health Department where I work in the MCH division.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

My larger career goals are to promote health equity and work as a commissioner one day or start my own program health initiative. I believe that women's reproductive health and harm reduction is often overlooked, and this fellowship has opened up many doors for me to network, gain insight from professionals within the field, and allow me to be in spaces such as conferences or become part of the NYSPHA.

CONTACT ME



hillarybeaudouin@gmail.
com



[https://www.linkedin.com/in/
/hillary-beaudouin-
282987168/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/hillary-beaudouin-282987168/)



W: 315-435-2000 ext 6311

INIJESU TAIWO

She/Her
MD/ MPH

 **Onondaga County Health
Department**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Maternal, Infant, and Family Health
- Health Literacy
- Health Equity
- Immigrant and Refugee Health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I talk to friends and family, sew, read research articles, and watch K-drama. I am also trying to get into painting right now.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I squat when I run, lol, and I pride myself in sewing all the outfits I wear to major events in my life.

In my Fellowship position...

In my fellowship position, I focus on promoting health equity, particularly for New American populations. This involves working on initiatives that address social determinants of health, ensuring that these communities have access to the health resources and services they need. My work includes community engagement, data collection, and analysis to identify disparities and barriers in healthcare, as well as collaborating with local health organizations to create and implement strategies aimed at improving health outcomes for underserved populations.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

This fellowship offers hands-on experience in promoting health equity, a key interest in my research and public health work. The focus on New American populations mirrors my broader aim of making a difference on a population level, especially for underserved groups. Additionally, this role allows me to apply my research skills and knowledge of global health in a local context, contributing to my long-term goals of addressing health disparities and influencing public health policy on both national and global stages. It also complements my past work on maternal health, healthcare access, and health literacy, expanding my experience with diverse populations.

CONTACT ME



inijesutaiwo@ongov.net
fopewo@gmail.com



[linkedin.com/in/inijesu-taiwo-
md-mph-6939b215a](https://www.linkedin.com/in/inijesu-taiwo-md-mph-6939b215a)



W: 315-435-2222
636-226-6419

ISAAC BERU

He/Him
BSPH

 **Seneca County Health
Department**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)



ABOUT ME

In my Fellowship position...

As most of my work involves CHA/CHIP, I help connect with the community through school and health fairs, as well as help with the creation of social media and physical forms of health infographics and flyers.


How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

In order to get some experience being in the public health field, I want to eventually become an epidemiologist. Using this experience to help me into graduate school will also help.

CONTACT ME

 iberu@co.seneca.ny.us

 www.linkedin.com/in/isaac-beru-9754a9257

 W: 315-539-2801

JACOB GOYCO

He/Him
B.S. Psychology

 **Seaway Valley
Prevention Council**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience

FOCUS AREAS

- Substance use

ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy playing video games, spending time with my dogs, and coaching basketball. Video games are a fun way for me to relax and stay mentally sharp, while time with my dogs helps me unwind and recharge. Coaching basketball is especially meaningful to me—it allows me to stay active, build leadership skills, and make a positive impact on young athletes.

In my Fellowship position...

During my Fellowship at the Seaway Valley Prevention Council in Ogdensburg, New York, I had the valuable opportunity to work with students affected by substance use. Throughout my time there, I provided outreach and educational services across St. Lawrence County, focusing on substance use topics including alcohol, cannabis, prescription drugs, and both legal and illegal substances. I collaborated with schools throughout the region to support prevention and awareness initiatives.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow aligns closely with my long-term career goals in substance use prevention and public health education. This fellowship has provided me with hands-on experience in community outreach, program implementation, and youth engagement—core components of my commitment to reducing substance misuse. It has strengthened my understanding of public health strategies and equipped me with the tools needed to create impactful, evidence-based prevention programs. Ultimately, this role has been a critical step toward my goal of becoming a leader in substance use prevention, shaping healthier communities through education, advocacy, and policy work.

CONTACT ME



Jgoyco@svpc.net
Jacobgoyco1996@gmail.com



www.linkedin.com/in/jacob-goyco-9a90931b0



W: 315-713-4861

JARED GUNDERSON

He/Him
MPH



Onondaga County



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Public health infrastructure development
- Health literacy
- General
- Emergency preparedness



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Golf, Softball, Bowling, Gaming

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I finally reached 315 bench personal record this year

In my Fellowship position...

Supported epidemiology, data analysis, and program evaluation efforts across multiple divisions. Contributed to PHAB accreditation, developed onboarding and mentorship tools, and assisted with community outreach initiatives including rural vaccine distribution and health literacy improvement.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Serving as a Public Health Fellow allowed me to build a strong foundation in local government operations, data-driven decision-making, and cross-sector collaboration—skills that directly align with my long-term goal of driving systems-level change. The fellowship gave me hands-on experience with public health accreditation, program development, and stakeholder engagement, which are critical competencies for leadership roles in public health and higher education program management.

CONTACT ME



Jaredgunderson@ongov.net
Gundy.jared@outlook.com



www.linkedin.com/in/jared-gunderson-684785186



607-857-7483

JASMINE REMINGTON

She/Her
MPH



**Chautauqua County
Health Department**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public
Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Mental health
- Substance use



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Read, garden

What is a fun fact about yourself?

Avid reader

In my Fellowship position...

Program management, community outreach/events, data extraction and analysis, content creation and distribution.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I do enjoy playing a role at the public health level.

CONTACT ME



remingtj.ctr@chqgov.com

jasmine.remington@yahoo.com



W: 716-753-4217

716-785-1412

JAZMIN HERNANDEZ

She/Her
MPH

 **Suffolk County Department
of Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience

FOCUS AREAS

- Communicable Disease
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics

ABOUT ME

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I have a Siberian Husky, named Ricco!

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy practicing yoga and exploring wellness routines that keep me grounded. I find joy in taking walks, as they allow me to connect with nature and unwind. Spending quality time with friends and family is also important to me, whether we're sharing meals or simply enjoying each other's company. These activities are vital for my overall well-being and help me recharge.

In my Fellowship position...

In my Fellowship position, I conduct case investigations for communicable diseases like Giardia, Campylobacter, E. coli Shigella. I interview affected individuals to gather details on symptoms and potential exposures, analyze data to identify trends, and collaborate with public health teams on control measures. I also help educate the community about prevention strategies and report findings to support public health policies.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?


The NYSPHC Fellowship aligns with my career goals by providing the opportunity to gain practical experience in public health. It will enhance my skills in analyzing health policies and understanding community needs, allowing me to make a real impact. This experience is crucial for my aspiration to advocate for equitable health solutions and contribute to healthier communities.

CONTACT ME

 jazmin.hernandez@suffolk
countyny.gov

jazminhe2218@gmail.com

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jazmin-hernandez-a10ba6140>

 W: 631-854-0291
631-375-9325

JENNIFER (JAY) BARAN

She/Her,
They/Them



GO Health



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- General
- Substance use



ABOUT ME

In my Fellowship position...

Administrative Assistance

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

This position offered more experience in the world of Public Health.

CONTACT ME



jennifer.baran@geneseeny.gov
jennbaran98@gmail.com



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-baran-3a698a239>

JENNIFER JONES

She/Her

 **Westchester County
Department of Health**



CONTACT ME

 jqjv@westchestercountyny.gov



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Health Equity
- Maternal, Infant, and Family Health
- Mental Health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy reading, traveling, hosting family gatherings.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I am a huge fan of Adam Sandler. I love all his movies and find humor in every one of them!

In my Fellowship position...

Health equity and DEIB research and development of proposed policies and initiatives, preparation of needs assessments, grant research, content development and design for monthly staff training and professional development newsletter, community partner collaboration (Westchester County Black Maternal Child Center for Excellence).

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow is giving me the opportunity to build an understanding of the various factors that impact health as well as the role I can play in improving health outcomes (community collaboration, communications).

JULIA HYATT

She/Her

 **Rockland County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Communicable Disease
- Immunizations
- Child and School Health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy playing soccer and spending quality time with friends!

In my Fellowship position...

As a Fellow, I contribute to the Immunization Action Program by promoting practices to increase childhood vaccine uptake and timely administration and working on quality improvement initiatives to improve immunization data integrity and public health law compliance.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

As an aspiring physician assistant, the NYSPHC Fellowship has provided me with an invaluable opportunity to learn about the unique factors that influence personal and community health, as well as communicable disease prevention. It has deepened my understanding of the broader context of health care, equipping me with the knowledge to apply a public health lens to my future education.

CONTACT ME



HyattJ@co.rockland.ny.us



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/julia-hyatt-570265189/>

JULIANA MANDARANO

She/Her



**Niagara County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

3-5 Years of Public
Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental Health



ABOUT ME

In my Fellowship position...

I work in a Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, helping to establish the Landlord Registry in Niagara Falls. I assist with cases of elevated blood lead level poisoning in children and primary prevention throughout community neighborhoods.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I am currently finishing up my MPH and being a NYSPHC Fellow has allowed me to gain valuable field experience that aligns with my interest in leadership and government.

CONTACT ME



Juliana.Mandarano@
niagaracounty.com



[http://www.linkedin.com/
in/juliana-mandarano](http://www.linkedin.com/in/juliana-mandarano)

JUSTIN REYNOLDS

He/Him

 **Albany County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Health equity
- Health literacy
- Public health infrastructure development
- Emergency Preparedness and Response



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

My free time is usually spent with my incredibly supportive girlfriend, Betsy; my dog, Buckley; and friends and family. I like to ski, play baseball, and go hiking. I'm also always up for a debate, or a game of Scrabble or trivia.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I flew to Hawaii once, for one day, just to watch the sunset. Bonus fact: I went to Woodstock '99.

In my Fellowship position...

Currently, I am assisting in the development of Albany County's Medical Reserve Corps continuity of operations plan (MRC Playbook). The playbook serves as a de facto operator's manual for the MRC. It contains all information necessary to ensure efficient administration of the MRC in the event of a leadership transition during a public health emergency. Additionally, I am responsible for the publication of Albany County MRC's quarterly newsletter.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Taking part in the NYSPHC Fellowship Program was (and continues to be) a wonderful option after completing my Public Health B.S. I plan on pursuing an MPH, but I needed time away from full time academics to focus on regular life. The fellowship is a perfect opportunity to make money while gaining a real-world understanding of how public health is managed. Another wonderful aspect of the fellowship is the continuing education. I'm able to stay in an academic mindset and continue to develop myself. I can't think of a more ideal situation to steward me from my B.S. degree toward and MPH. Finally, the opportunities for networking with professionals at Albany County, Fellows and NYSPHC staff, and other public health professionals is doubtlessly going to open career doors for me throughout the fellowship and throughout my public health career.

CONTACT ME



justin.reynolds@albanycountyny.gov



www.linkedin.com/in/likethewrap



W: 518-257-9001

KATE SALMON

She/Her
MPH

 **Cayuga County Health
Department**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Child and School Health
- Health Literacy
- Maternal, Infant, and Family Health
- Communicable Disease



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy playing with my dog, tending donkeys and horses, hiking, swimming, reading, and travel.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

Daina Taimina taught me how to crochet a hyperbolic plane.

In my Fellowship position...

I support the community health services division with enhancing communications to the public about immunization to prevent severe morbidity and vaccine preventable diseases, graphic visualizations of communicable disease and LHD clinic data, and other community health outreach. I was also hired to support school and child health through projects in the EI/CYSHCN division and maternal and child health through projects at Cayuga County's WIC office. I am interested in data collection and presentation that promotes policies that increase breastfeeding and health literacy in the community.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

As a Fellow, I hope to gain experience with planning and management of public health programs, as well as apply my knowledge and skills in epidemiology and data analysis to public health at a local/ community level.

CONTACT ME



ksalmon@cayugacounty.us



W: 315-253-1560

KATELYNN SMITH

She/Her
MA

 **Cattaraugus County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Lead on Public Health Workforce Development



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love to spend time with my family. I am married and have 2 daughters. Our family loves to travel and go camping. Recently I have found some me time in practicing yoga.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

When my husband and I retire, we hope to manage a campground as a part of retirement. We are also looking for land to buy for a Christmas tree farm.

In my Fellowship position...

I have been working under the Public Health Division Department. Recently, I have attended PHAB meetings for reaccreditation purposes. The project that I am working towards is increasing Public Health Workers within the Department of Health. We are in the process of planning and developing workshops and training that gear towards public health skills and competencies. We are also looking to implement a Performance Evaluation System for employee performances.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Eventually I would like to help bridge to gap of any resources within Cattaraugus County. My experiences working in the nonprofit world have created collaboration and partnerships that Cattaraugus County could value. I see myself being a liaison for all community members whether it be on community education, policy changes, and/or service program development.

CONTACT ME



ksmith@cattco.org



W: 716-801-3417

KATHERINE GRAZIANO

She/Her



**Cornell Cooperative
Extension Essex County**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Child and school health
- Health equity
- Nutrition and food security
- Senior health and wellness



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love to run, hike, bake, read, and play flute in my free time!

What is a fun fact about yourself?

A fun fact about me is that I am vegan and gluten free.

In my Fellowship position...

I develop and distribute educational materials linking public health outcomes with local, healthy food, and I teach programs like senior fitness and agriculture in the classroom to help spread local, healthy food and public health education.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I would like to work in health, particularly with children, and being a NYSPHC fellow has given me the opportunity to work in a lot of settings and learn a lot about public health.

CONTACT ME



kmg324@cornell.edu

kgraz200@gmail.com



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/katherine-graziano-/>



315-413-1516

KATHY WILLE

She/Her
M.S.Ed

 **Pivotal Public Health Partnership**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Mental Health
- Substance Use
- Emergency Preparedness



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I like to garden, listen to music, go on daily walks, and spend time with family.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I can play two musical instruments!

In my Fellowship position...

I coordinate FLPHA (Finger Lakes Public Health Alliance) which is made up emergency planners in eight Pivotal member counties whose goal is to collaborate, share ideas and best practices to strengthen emergency preparedness. I also work as a convener and network specialist attending ten substance use prevention and suicide prevention coalition meetings of Pivotal's member counties to share information about initiatives and create opportunities for potential collaboration. Additionally, I provide grant assistance data gathering and correlating LHD needs/priorities that would impact the work in member counties.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

NYSPHC allows me the opportunity to further my knowledge in Public Health with fulfilling experiences and professional development opportunities.

CONTACT ME

 kwille@pivotalphp.org

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathynwille17>

KHRYSTIN COMERFORD

She/Her
MPH



**Schenectady County
Public Health Services**



EXPERIENCE

5+ Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Chronic Disease
- Health equity
- General
- Health literacy
- Housing security
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Other/unspecified communicable disease
- STIs/HIV
- Substance use
- Public health infrastructure development
- Mental health
- Nutrition and food security



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Read, hangout with my cat, hangout with friends, go to live events/shows.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I originally wanted to be a pediatrician but fell into public health and love it!

In my Fellowship position...

Communicable Disease investigations, STI treatment verification, employee wellness, content creation, health education

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

It gives me the opportunity to develop and showcase the skills and education I have gained over the course of my career. I also get exposure to working in a local health department while utilizing professional development opportunities.

CONTACT ME



khrystin.comerford@schene
ctadycountyny.gov

k.comerford01@gmail.com



[https://www.linkedin.com/in/
khrystincomerford/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/khrystincomerford/)



W: 518-386-2824
518-209-1057

KRISTINA (TINA) MURTY

She/Her

MSEd. Community Health

 **Wayne County
Community Schools**



EXPERIENCE

3-5 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Child and school health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love to travel, I love being outdoors, I love exploring mindfulness philosophy, I love reading, and I'm hooked on the NYT Sudoku.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I lived right beside one of the most active volcanoes in the world in Hawaii

In my Fellowship position...

I work on the Optimal Health Team of Wayne County Community Schools. Our team works on providing increased access to health services and we provide health education programs across the County. My role on this team is to help plan and organize events, research health needs and resources, and I work on some team organizing and administration tasks. I also serve on multiple community workgroups and planning groups that are cross-sector that focus on health and wellness issues in our community. In these workgroups, I create communication messages, I act as a messenger between these groups, and in one team, I perform some administration tasks (taking minutes, identifying action items, and performing annual evaluations). My organization also runs our County chapter of the Get Ready to GROW program, which provides health and wellness screenings for children aged 12 months-60 months. In the GROW program, I work to gather and organize data, I work on program growth planning and communications, and I work to help create systems and processes that streamline our work (as it is a brand new program for us).

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

This fellowship and specifically, my worksite, has given me many great opportunities for networking, for understanding the various organizations involved in community health and school wellness, and has helped me grow professionally in so many ways. I have learned new design skills, new data analysis skills, and have been able to work on both long-term and short-term projects with success. No matter what my next step is, I feel like this experience has given me tools and skills that will benefit me and those I work with and for.

CONTACT ME



kmurty@flxcommunityschools.org

LAIKEN RICKER

She/Her
B.S. Public Health



**Genesee and Orleans
County Health
Departments (GO Health)**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Environmental Health
- Public Health Education



ABOUT ME

In my Fellowship position...

I have been working with the Health Education team. Some of the main projects that I work on include writing articles, press releases, developing social media posts for various topics, and assisting the Environmental Health team with the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, Healthy Homes Grant, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the NYS Radon Grant.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow aligns with my larger career goals by providing me with experiences across various aspects of public health, particularly in environmental and community health. Collaborating with multiple teams throughout the health department has enhanced my understanding of how various factors impact health behaviors and outcomes. Additionally, I am gaining insight into effective communication skills and community health education strategies, which will allow me to support healthier communities.

CONTACT ME



laiken.ricker@geneseeny.gov

Laikenricker28@gmail.com



www.linkedin.com/in/laiken-ricker

LAURA SUNDER

She/Her
MBA

 **Nassau County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Communications/Marketing



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I like to read, go to the beach, and watch tv.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I can solve a Rubiks cube.

In my Fellowship position...

I do marketing for the health department including social media as well as advertising. I also design and create health education materials.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I am getting hands on experience here and learning a lot about targeting audiences.

CONTACT ME



lsunder@nassaucountyny.gov



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-sunder-mba-241a41203/>



W: 516-227-9687

LUCY (SHULAMIT) PASSARO

She/They



**Albany County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Child and School Health
- COVID-19
- Communicable Disease
- Public Health Infrastructure
Development



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I dance, make art, sew, swim, study languages, and enjoy nature. I am an intermodal expressive arts facilitator, and I am training to be a somatic movement educator and somatic movement therapist, so I like to learn about human movement, facilitation methods, and process-based art techniques.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I designed costumes for the Off-Broadway show, Cherry House.

In my Fellowship position...

Under the Epidemiology Division, I work in Program and Organizational Management, focusing on Child and School Health. I utilize outreach and surveillance to monitor, prevent, and respond to respiratory illness and school absenteeism.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

This Fellowship allows me to transition into and be fully grounded in the Public Health field and enables me to make a tangible positive impact on health equity. My ultimate goals are to save lives and to depoliticize trauma. I believe Public Health gives a platform and framework by which to accomplish these goals.

CONTACT ME



lucy.passaro@albanycounty
ny.gov



[https://www.linkedin.com/
in/lucypassaro/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lucypassaro/)



W: 518-447-4653

LUCY ALLEN

She/Her

 **Clinton County Health
Department**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Public Health Communications



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love watching movies and TV! I am also a fan of yoga.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I can wiggle my ears and I'm scarily good at it.


In my Fellowship position...

I am fostering greater communications methods within the Clinton County Health Department and also externally, within the community.


How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

This fellowship has already taught me so much about client relations and how to manage creative teams. I hope to bring this with me in future roles where I may be creating marketing materials, scripts, video and all other fun things.

CONTACT ME

Lucy.Allen@clintoncountyny.gov
 lucycatherine009@gmail.com

 [https://www.linkedin.com/
in/lucy-catherine-allen-
867275204/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lucy-catherine-allen-867275204/)

 W: 518-565-4511
518-219-2466

LUTFIA TASNIM CHOWDHURY

She/Her
MPH



**Erie County Department
of Environmental Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental health
- STIs/HIV
- Nutrition and food security



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Outing/learn software skills

In my Fellowship position...

I am currently working with the ECDOH Environmental Health, where I review and research the Sanitary Code. I have worked with the ECDOH clinic, where I researched STI rates, compiled data, performed data entry and analysis, and developed content for educational materials and posters.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

As a NYSPHC Fellow, I've had the opportunity to explore multiple areas of public health through hands-on experience. The work at the Erie County Department of Environmental Health, has deepened my understanding of how environmental safety, and regulations are developed and enforced to protect community health. Previously, I worked with the ECDOH clinic, on STI prevention; these experiences have helped me strengthen both my research and communication skills, which are critical to my larger career goal of working in public health educator and research.

CONTACT ME



Lutfia.TasnimChowdhury@erie.gov
ltchowdhury10@gmail.com



www.linkedin.com/in/lutfia-chowdhury



716-235-7509

MARIANA B. BARRANCOS

She/Her

 **Fellow I at Broome County
Health Department**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental Health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I record videos for medical students, I love knitting and swimming, and I practice yoga.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I decided to pursue my medical doctor degree at the age of 50, which I successfully achieved at 57 (in my country, med school is a 7-year program). Right after my graduation, the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. Thus, I started working full-time as a doctor, right away!

In my Fellowship position...

I am in charge of the Rabies Program and also assist my supervisor and coworkers with the Food program.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

It gives me work experience in the Public Health field since I am planning to pursue a master's degree in PH.

CONTACT ME



mariana.barrancos@broomecountyny.gov



[https://www.linkedin.com/
in/mariana-beatriz-
barrancos](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mariana-beatriz-barrancos)



W: 607-778-1646

MARIE SABA

She/Her
B.S

 **Madison County**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Accreditation
- Substance Use
- Mental Health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy reading, listening to music, trying new coffee shops, and anything outdoors!

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I enjoy playing pickle ball!

In my Fellowship position...

I am currently helping with the Initial Accreditation process. In addition, I am involved in the facilitation of the Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan. Lastly, I'm updating a health profile on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to use the findings for better detection and screening of ACEs in schools and healthcare settings.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

This Fellowship allows me to engage directly with the key agents of change within the department, giving me insight into the broader processes of public health and how long-term changes are implemented. Moreover, this experience is instrumental in helping me identify which specific area of public health I would like to pursue further.

CONTACT ME



marie.saba@madisoncounty.ny.gov



www.linkedin.com/in/marie-saba-linked-in



W: 315-366-2361 x 3019
315-741-8852

MARIYAM FERDOUSI

She/her
MPH

 **Monroe County Department
of Public Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Child and school health
- Maternal, infant, and family health
- Mental health
- Health literacy
- Public health infrastructure development
- Health equity



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Crochet, read, bake, and spend time with my kids.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I love to crochet and assembling things.

In my Fellowship position...

I work with the Early Intervention Program staff, consisting of a Service Coordinator, various service providers in the community, data management, coordination and collaboration with in-home and outer agencies, and so on.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow gives me exposure to real world problems and enables me to apply my knowledge and skills in practice to solve problems. As an epidemiologist, my focus is to contribute to maternal, child, and mental health. Any work I am able to do during my fellowship journey can only increase my experience.

CONTACT ME



mariyamferdousi@monroecounty.gov



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mariyam-ferdousi>



W: 585-505-4507

MARY BETH HUGHES

She/Her

B.S. Community &
Human Services



**Erie County Department of
Health - EMS Division**



CONTACT ME



marybeth.hughes@erie.gov



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Public Health Emergency
Preparedness/EMS



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time I enjoy making quilts, travelling and hiking.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I have been a NYS paramedic for almost 40 years.

In my Fellowship position...

My position is split between EMS and PHEP. I am currently working on the Family Assistance Center plan with the PHEP coordinators for Erie County Emergency Management Plans. In the EMS division I have been working on billing compliance, inventory control and outlining and implementing the process for Municipal Certificate of Need Conversion to permanent status. I am also working to complete the BEAM course.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

The NYSPHC Fellowship has allowed me to put my education and background to practical use and to expand my knowledge and exposure to many different fields within public health. The Fellowship has been invaluable for networking within Erie County and NYS.

MARY ROSS

She/Her
MPH



**Office of Minority Health,
Suffolk County Department
of Health Services**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Chronic Disease
- Environmental Health
- Health Equity
- Health Literacy
- Mental Health
- Maternal, Infant, and Family Health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy cooking, baking, reading, and traveling in my free time.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I was the vice president of my undergraduate, Syracuse University's, professional chemistry fraternity, Alpha Chi Sigma

In my Fellowship position...

Being a NYSPHC Fellow has allowed me to gain the experience and connections to discover what careers and organizations are involved in health equity and chronic disease prevention work. These are two areas of public health that I am passionate about continuing a career in.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

As a Fellow, I help create and implement health programming that aims to increase access to health services and improve chronic disease outcomes for racial and ethnic minority populations. My position is heavily community based, and we collaborate with many community organizations for our work.

CONTACT ME



mary.ross@suffolkcounty
ny.gov

mross2560@gmail.com



[www.linkedin.com/in/
mary-chunyan-ross](http://www.linkedin.com/in/mary-chunyan-ross)



W: 631-854-0378

516-497-6506

MATTHEW D'ANGELO

He/Him
MPA



**Dutchess County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

3-5 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Communicable Disease
- Environmental Health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Spend time with friends, cook new dishes, consume all things football, and play video games!

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I took the time during the COVID-19 pandemic to pick up cooking as a hobby - and I have gotten quite good at it!

In my Fellowship position...

I am the Rabies Coordinator for the DCDOH. My job is to run the county's Rabies suppression program - which includes including bite investigations, Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP) treatment, educating the public on the risks of Rabies and exposure to potentially Rabid animals, and make improvements to the Rabies program itself!

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

The NYSPHC allows me not just to get more experience in the public health sector, but also allows me to learn, network with public health professionals and other fellows, and immerse myself in many different areas of public health.

CONTACT ME



mdangelo@dutchessny.gov
matt_dangelo@hotmail.com



[www.linkedin.com/in/
matthew-m-dangelo](http://www.linkedin.com/in/matthew-m-dangelo)



W: 845-486-2712
845-803-0676

MATTHEW LOPEZ

He/Him



Rockland County



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I like to exercise, play lacrosse, go on runs, and I enjoy to cook.

In my Fellowship position...

I work in Environmental Health in the water program. I support projects that are done in the water program by contributing to data entry and analysis of lab reports, sanitary surveys and compliance records for water systems across the county.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I am a fellow from the first NYSPHC cohort and I have been blessed to be apart of this fellowship. Without this fellowship I do not know where I would be today. I am going into my second year of my Masters of Public Health program and I will receive my MPH by next year. The NYSPHC has opened many doors for me for employment opportunities and I really want to thank everyone who was apart of putting this program together!

CONTACT ME



lopezma@co.rockland.ny.us
mplopez@buffalo.edu



www.linkedin.com/in/matthew-lopez-5a4961258

MEGAN POLHAMUS

She/Her

 **Madison County Public Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Chronic Disease
- Public Health Infrastructure Development



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I like to read, go on walks, crochet, and spend time with family and friends.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

My initials are MVP!

In my Fellowship position...

I am working on chronic disease prevention, specifically addressing physical activity, nutrition, and smoking cessation. Community outreach is a key piece to my work so I have participated in tabling at community events to share the available Madison County Public Health programs and services. I am also helping with efforts in becoming an accredited health department.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I would like to become a Health Educator, ideally continuing with chronic disease prevention. I am grateful to be gaining experience at a county health department and learning from the Health Educators.

CONTACT ME



megan.polhamus@madison
county.ny.gov
mvpolhamus02@gmail.com



linkedin.com/in/megan-
polhamus



W: 315-366-3044
315-944-7117

MENYEL BROOKS

She/Her, They/Them
MPH

 **Chenango County Health
Department**



EXPERIENCE

5+ Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Health Equity
- Health Literacy
- Housing Security
- Mental Health
- STIs/HIV
- Substance Use
- COVID-19

CONTACT ME

 [mbrooks@chenangocounty
ny.gov](mailto:mbrooks@chenangocounty.ny.gov)

 [linkedin.com/in/menyel](https://www.linkedin.com/in/menyel)



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

When I finally get some free time, I'll let you know what I do with it!

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I am a Bill Gates Millennium Scholar - the first person in my city to ever receive the award. It afforded me the opportunity to do things I never imagined were possible for someone from my neighborhood. I was able to attend my dream school at NYU, study abroad (Italy and Spain), and meet Mariska Hargitay - the star of one of my favorite shows.

In my Fellowship position...

I am currently working on our Community Health Assessment, attending meetings for our local Homeless Coalition, and shadowing our various divisions/departments to understand everyone's role and how to improve their day-to-day functions. I would love to use this time to bring tech advancements to this department to remove unnecessary burdens on the staff and increase access for both staff and the community.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I am a PhD student (All But Dissertation) and open to possibilities of careers in various sectors. Gaining experience in the public sector from a learning and career development standpoint is allowing me to gauge my interests and determine where I am most needed. I couldn't be more appreciative of this opportunity and how this experience is healing past work trauma. I believe that I will have a solid foundation and career direction by the end of this Fellowship.

NAKIA YUMOR

She/Her
DrPH Candidate, MS



**Rockland County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

5+ Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Child and School Health
- Communicable Disease



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Watch TV, bowling, and visiting with family and friends.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I like to make people laugh.

In my Fellowship position...

Case Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases
Promotion of Immunizations in child and school health

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

It aligns with my future career goals of becoming a public health researcher with a focus on social-behavior health.

CONTACT ME



YumorN@co.rockland.ny.us



W: 845-263-4417

NANCY DELMASTRO

She/Her
MPH

 **Westchester County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

5+ Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Chronic Disease
- Community Health
Assessments/Community Health
Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Health Equity
- Health Literacy



ABOUT ME

In my Fellowship position...

I work in the Division of Health Promotion/Partnerships where I am assisting with strategic initiatives, leading the development of a comprehensive communications plan and supporting internal and external communications projects, events and other relevant projects involving community partners.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a Fellow aligns with my career goals because it supports professional development, exposes me to the many opportunities available in county public health departments, and allows me to gain hands-on experience while continuing to educate myself in the public health field.

CONTACT ME

 [nndm@westchestercounty
ny.gov](mailto:nndm@westchestercounty.ny.gov)

 ndelmastro1@gmail.com

 [https://www.linkedin.com/
in/nancy-delmastro/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nancy-delmastro/)

 914-400-3460

NIVELINE CHARLES

She/Her
MHS

 **Washington County Public Health and Nursing Services**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Health equity
- Health literacy
- Child and school health
- Community health assessments/community health improvement plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Maternal, infant, and family health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love experimenting in the kitchen, blending French, Creole, and Caribbean flavors infused with American techniques to create dishes that are vibrant in colors and rich in aromas. Cooking allows me to express creativity while staying connected to my roots. I enjoy traveling internationally, always seeking the perfect balance of comfort, adventure, inspiration, and relaxation. Recently, I've been exploring food photography and interior décor, creating warm and inviting spaces that feel cozy and peaceful. Having just moved to Albany for my Fellowship, I'm on the lookout for fun social activities—if any fellow Albany residents have recommendations, I'd love to connect 😊!

What is a fun fact about yourself?

Until the age of 18, I'd never spoken, read, or learned in English. Also, I've never had a raw salad!

In my Fellowship position...

I focus on raising awareness about lead poisoning prevention in children and early intervention programs by enhancing health literacy and creating digital messaging for social media. I engage with the community through school events, health fairs, and outreach initiatives, setting up informational tables and developing culturally relevant educational materials to empower families. Collaborating with local organizations and stakeholders, I work to strengthen partnerships and identify ways to improve public health efforts. I draft initiatives and create health infographics to expand community engagement and promote informed decision-making. I strive to foster trust, increase awareness, and support sustainable health practices within Washington County.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

As someone new to public health with a background in clinical research, my experience as a Fellow has deepened my understanding of the field and helped me develop essential skills for making impactful public health strategies. Engaging with community leaders and members has provided me with practical insights that are both transferable and valuable to my long-term career aspirations. This fellowship serves as a stepping stone toward my goal of working at the intersection of healthcare, the public sector, and public health, and it has exposed me to a range of programs I was previously unaware of, such as professional development initiatives and the structure of federal, state, and local health departments. I hope to strengthen my ability to implement public health interventions, collaborate across sectors, and contribute to meaningful change in reducing health disparities and promoting health equity.



CONTACT ME



ncharles@washingtoncountyny.gov



W: 518-746-2240

PAULINE W. HOFFMANN

She/Her
Ph.D.



**Cattaraugus County
Health Department**



EXPERIENCE

5+ Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Health Literacy
- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Communication, Strategic Planning, Disinformation



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Read, write, cook, garden, exercise, puzzle, and drink wine.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I read Tarot cards.

In my Fellowship position...

Communication and strategic planning, implementation and evaluation, disinformation debunking, conference speaking, and grant writing.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

It allows me to network across the state so that we may solve public health problems collaboratively.

CONTACT ME



pwhoffmann@cattco.org



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/pwhoffmann/>



W: 716-864-9768

POOJA ABBURI

She/Her
MPH

 (NYSDOH) Capital District
Regional Office



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- COVID-19
- Environmental Health



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I consider myself to be an artist so in my free time I like to engage in all sorts of creative pursuits. Depending on the day, I go in-between wanting to sketch, paint, craft, play music, do photography, etc., etc.

So basically, anything that is inherently artistic is right up my alley!

What is a fun fact about yourself?

In the second grade, I convinced my parents to buy me a keyboard and through sheer will taught myself how to read piano keys and sheet music. Within the week, the very first song I managed to learn how to play was My Heart Will Go On by Celine Dion.

In my Fellowship position...

I work within the Center for Environmental Health, where I am a part of the New York State Wastewater Surveillance Network. I have had the opportunity to work closely with SARS-CoV-2 case data and wastewater surveillance data to inform regional epidemiological decisions.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

The NYSPHC Fellowship is a fantastic opportunity to bolster and widen your skills in public health professional practices. This experience has equipped me with a more comprehensive understanding of public health data management and collaboration in a multidisciplinary environment.

CONTACT ME



pooja.abburi@health.ny.gov



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/pooja-abburi/>



W: 518-485-0445

QUANASIA CAMPBELL

She/Her,
They/Them



**Dutchess County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Mental health
- Substance use
- STIs/HIV
- Housing security



ABOUT ME

In my Fellowship position...

In my position I provide peer support services, harm reduction education and trainings. I work doing tabling on the streets and area where the homeless gather. I do syringe clean ups and partake and facilitate in peer run groups.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I am meeting and networking and learning from professional active in the field of my desired career.

CONTACT ME



qcampbell@dutchessny.gov



W: 845-486-2819

RAVI KUMAR CHALHOTRA

He/Him
MPH

 **Jefferson County Public
Health Service**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Chronic disease
- Environmental health
- Oral health
- Health literacy
- Other/unspecified communicable disease



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Watch hockey and play video games.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I'm Canadian.

In my Fellowship position...

As a Public Health Fellow III (Epidemiology and Data) at Jefferson County Public Health Service, I analyze and interpret public health data to support the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan. I conduct disease surveillance, monitor reportable diseases, and collaborate with NYSDOH and CDC to track and respond to outbreaks. I also create statistical reports and provide data-driven insights to inform public health policies and programs. Additionally, I contribute to preparedness efforts, ensuring data-driven strategies for future disease threats. My work helps strengthen public health infrastructure and improve community health outcomes.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow aligns with my goal of using epidemiological research and data analysis to inform public health policy. This role allows me to apply communicable disease epidemiology, statistical analysis, disease surveillance, and health equity research to real-world challenges while collaborating with local and state health departments. The experience strengthens my ability to translate data into actionable solutions, preparing me for a career in public health research, policy, and advocacy.

CONTACT ME

 rchalhotra@jeffersoncountyny.gov

ravi.chalhotra@nyu.edu



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ravi-chalhotra/>



646-975-1972

RITA SVETANICS

She/Her

 **Chautauqua County
Health Department**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health
Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Environmental Health
- Public Health Infrastructure
Development
- Housing Security



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I love to go on walks, try new recipes and read. I am hoping on getting a dog soon, so my free time has also been filled with me scouring Petfinder for the perfect furry friend.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I was the President of an A Capella Group in college! And yes, it was a lot like Pitch Perfect.

In my Fellowship position...

As a Fellow at my local health department, I serve on the lead team in the environmental health division. My role includes performing lead prevention inspections, following up on old and lost lead cases and assisting the team in building their GIS system in preparation of the NYS Lead Registry.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

As a recent graduate in a public health related degree, being a NYSPHC Fellow fits directly in with my future career goals. My study interests lie heavily in medical ethics, mental hygiene, and environmental health, all of which come into play in the realm of public health. This Fellowship gives me tangible experience that I hope will inform my next steps as a public health professional.

CONTACT ME



SvetanicR.ctr@chqgov.com



[https://www.linkedin.com/
in/rcs321](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rcs321)



W: 716-753-4432

ROHINI GANPAT

She/Her
B.S.



**Bureau of Cancer
Prevention & Control**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Chronic Disease



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time, I enjoy spending quality moments with friends, family, and my boyfriend. I have a passion for traveling to new destinations around the world, and I also appreciate shopping and exploring makeup artistry as favorite pastimes.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

Here's a fun twist about my name: my middle name is Aruna, which is what my family and friends all call me, but at work and school, I go by my first name, Rohini. It's like having two names for different parts of my world!

In my Fellowship position...

The Fellowship position within the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control offers a unique opportunity to support the New York State Cancer Consortium and the implementation of the New York State Cancer Plan. The fellow will play a vital role in facilitating community engagement efforts, emphasizing the importance of health equity to reduce the cancer burden in New York. By collaborating with Consortium member workgroups, the fellow will assist in developing strategies that empower community partners to effectively disseminate information and promote their initiatives, thereby establishing models for sustainable engagement practices across various organizations.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

As a NYSPHC Fellow, I see a significant opportunity to enhance my skills and advance my professional development in the public health field. This fellowship aligns perfectly with my larger career goals, particularly my commitment to addressing health disparities and promoting health equity. By engaging with the New York State Cancer Consortium and the implementation of the Cancer Plan, I will gain hands-on experience in community engagement, stakeholder collaboration, and program development—essential skills for a successful career in public health. Additionally, the Fellowship will allow me to deepen my understanding of the intricacies of cancer prevention and control while honing my ability to work with diverse communities and provides a unique platform for networking with experienced professionals in the field, allowing me to build relationships that can support my future endeavors.



CONTACT ME



rohini.ganpat@health.ny.gov



https://www.linkedin.com/in/rohini-ganpat-b840531bb?original_referer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bing.com%2F



W: 518-408-5091

ROSS MILNE

He/Him
MPH

 **Tompkins County Whole Health**



EXPERIENCE

5+ Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Mental Health
- Substance Use
- Public Health Infrastructure Development



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Reading detective novels, small stream flyfishing, going for walks in the woods, trying to catch cool animals on trail cameras, playing soccer with my niece, exploring the east coast as a lifelong west coaster.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I learned how to skateboard bowls and quarter pipes in my late 20s early 30s. I fell and hurt my aging body a lot in the process.

In my Fellowship position...

I've primarily been supporting the goals and objectives of the Tompkins County Mental Hygiene Local Services Plan, which include assessing the scope and impact of the behavioral health workforce shortage, facilitating the procurement process for substance use and mental health services and supports, and identifying evidence-based strategies to resolve gaps in service delivery. In my day-to-day, this has consisted of a lot of RFP development and contracting, literature review and quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis, and collaborations with community service providers and stakeholders.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

My role at Tompkins County Whole Health has allowed me to engage in systems-level planning and coordination, contract management and program evaluation, and budgeting and financial assessment. These activities fit well into my larger career goal of leading public health program administration and management at the County level.

CONTACT ME



rmilne@tompkins-co.org
rossmilne53@gmail.com



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ross-milne-984027149/>



W: 607-274-6312

RUTH MYERS

She/Her
MPH

 **NYSDOH Office of Gun
Violence Prevention**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Violence and Injury Prevention



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love to cook and travel locally and nationally.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I used to be an animal trainer at the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

In my Fellowship position...

As a New York State Public Health Corps (NYSPHC) Fellow at the Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP), I play a key role in supporting the day-to-day operations of the office. My responsibilities include coordinating program activities with internal teams at OGVP, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), and external partners. I assist in developing presentations for trainings and conferences, and representing OGVP in community meetings focused on gun violence, health equity, and social justice, reviewing contracts and other administrative duties. Additionally, I am learning more about data analysis and interpretation to assess the prevalence of gun violence in various jurisdictions, and I have experience reviewing abstracts for the American Public Health Association's (APHA) Epidemiology program.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow at the Office of Gun Violence Prevention aligns closely with my larger career goals of becoming an epidemiologist focused on child health and safety. Through my Fellowship, I have gained invaluable experience analyzing and interpreting data on gun violence, a critical issue that directly impacts the well-being of children and communities. By coordinating program activities and collaborating with key stakeholders, I've developed a deeper understanding of how public health interventions can be used to prevent injuries and improve safety. These skills are essential for my future work in epidemiology, where I aim to integrate data-driven strategies with my passion for child health to create programs that protect and enhance the well-being of children, particularly in the area of injury prevention.



CONTACT ME



ruth.myers@health.ny.gov



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ruth-myers/>



W: 917-675-1130

SAMANTHA MALEY

She/Her
MS



**Erie County
Department of Health**



CONTACT ME



samantha.maley@erie.gov

sammaley1@yahoo.com



EXPERIENCE

3-5 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- COVID-19
- Communicable Disease
- Epidemiology



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy spending time with my family. I also enjoy going to Buffalo Bills and Sabres games!

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I have seven siblings!

In my Fellowship position...

I have been working in the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance. I investigate communicable disease reports to prevent the spread of disease within the community. I also prepare reports that are posted to the ECDOH website, which includes a COVID-19 and Influenza Weekly Reports and a Monthly Communicable Disease Reports.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

This Fellowship is providing me with valuable experience in epidemiology from the scope of a local health department. This fits in with my larger career goals as I hope to continue on with a career in epidemiology.

SIOBHAN STONE

She/Her
AS

 **New York State
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience

FOCUS AREAS

- STIs/HIV

ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I like to work out and train for the half marathon I am running next year. I also spend time with friends, family, and my cat, and I love to go shopping. I am also currently studying to get my bachelor's in science in public health from University at Albany and will be graduating this December 2024!

What is a fun fact about yourself?

A fun fact is my name is Gaelic, so it is actually pronounced Sha-von!


In my Fellowship position...

I work with the program NYLinks which is in the Office of Quality Initiatives in the AIDS Institute. NYLinks works towards linkage to care and viral load suppression for people living with HIV. We host webinars and traveling conferences that occur all over the state to educate HIV providers on a variety of topics including quality improvement, continuum of consumer involvement, strategies to improve HIV care outcomes, sex positive approaches, and many others. NYLinks bridges systemic gaps between HIV-related services within New York State to achieve better outcomes for persons living with HIV/AIDS through improving systems for monitoring, recording, and accessing information about HIV care in NYS.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

This fits within my larger career goals because the program NYLinks makes an impact on a large scale as we work with hundreds of providers all across the state on improving HIV-related care. I have always enjoyed the field of sexual health and educating communities on various sexual health topics through programs.

CONTACT ME

 siobhan.stone@health.ny.gov
siobhanstone24@gmail.com

 www.linkedin.com/in/siobhanestone

 607-426-2310

TANYA SORENSON

She/Her

 **Schoharie County
Department of Health**



EXPERIENCE

0-1 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Health Literacy
- Public Health Infrastructure Development
- Health Equity



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I love dancing tango and swing, reading novels, and skiing.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

In high school, I did musical theater.

In my Fellowship position...

I work on finding new data for our Community Health Needs Assessment. I'm researching evidence-based practices for preventing and stopping vaping among young people. I work in community health and partners outreach.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I'm hoping to further my career in public health, ideally analyzing data in the future. I'm interested in the role of data in developing policy and assessing programs.

CONTACT ME



Tanya.Sorenson@schoharie
county-ny.gov
tanyasorenson@icloud.com



[linkedin.com/in/tanya-
sorenson](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tanya-sorenson)



W: 518-295-8345
845-430-6392

TAYLOR B. WENSLEY

She/Her
MSW, MPH

 **NYS Department of Health,
Division of Chronic Disease
Prevention**



EXPERIENCE

5+ Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Chronic Disease
- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Health Equity
- Nutrition and Food Security
- STIs/HIV
- Substance Use
- Gerontology
- Housing Security
- COVID-19
- Environmental Health
- Maternal, Infant, and Family Health
- Mental Health



ABOUT ME

In my Fellowship position...

I am a Racial Justice & Health Equity Coordinator and Contract Manager.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Continued learning and networking opportunities, health equity work, public health policy work.



CONTACT ME



taylor.wensley@health.ny.gov

THEODORE ALEXANDER

He/Him
MPH

 **NYSDOH Center for Healthcare
Workforce Innovation**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Child and School Health
- COVID-19
- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Health Equity
- Oral Health
- Public Health Infrastructure Development
- Program Evaluation



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

I like to spend quality time with my friends, engage in self-care activities, and ride e-bikes around my neighborhood and local park(s). Also, I am actively pursuing a Master of Business Administration, so I am often completing homework and/or studying.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I love tattoo artwork, fashion, and fantasy/action-centered anime, and one of my guilty pleasures is binge-watching reality TV shows like Love is Blind, Love Island, Selling Sunset, you name it.

In my Fellowship position...

- Assisting in the development and implementation of the budget, contracts, vouchers, work plans, and project deliverables.
- Managing fiscal, program, and evaluation activities for the Healthcare Workforce Hub, a web-based portal that links aspiring providers to organizations, agencies, resources, and information to pursue careers in the healthcare industry.
- Designing and implementing evaluation processes, including quality improvement, data collection, and performance measurement reporting.
- Creating training materials, resources, and tools for statewide reach and stakeholder satisfaction.
- Supervising student assistants, providing education, training, and resources to support them

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

As a Public Health Fellow III with an emphasis on Program and Organizational Management, I am continuously honing my project management, leadership, and decision-making skills to spearhead initiatives that will significantly impact marginalized communities. The work at my current site revolves around mitigating the healthcare workforce shortage, which I am passionate about, as I have personally been affected by this detriment within hospital and clinical settings. In the long term, I strive to become a Health Program Administrator or Consultant to improve the operational efficiencies of healthcare institutions.



CONTACT ME



theo.alexander@health.ny.gov



www.linkedin.com/in/theo-s-alex392

WARDA HAMAIL

She/Her

 **Nassau County
Department of Health**



CONTACT ME

 [whamail@nassaucounty
ny.gov](mailto:whamail@nassaucounty.ny.gov)

 W: 646-691-4480



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Child and School Health
- Chronic Disease
- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)
- Environmental Health
- Health Equity
- Health Literacy
- Maternal, Infant, and Family Health
- Mental Health
- Nutrition and Food Security
- Public Health Infrastructure Development
- STIs/HIV
- Substance Use
- Violence and Injury Prevention



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Cooking, traveling with my husband, taking long walks, trying new coffee shops, cafes & restaurants.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I used to be a cheerleader! I miss it.

In my Fellowship position...

I work in the office of community outreach at NCDOH. My team and I do outreach at CBO's, hospitals, community events, and schools. The main goal is to provide resources to the community on health-related areas, work on chronic disease prevention programs, research evidence-based practices and incorporate data in understanding public health disparities. I also attend the board of health meeting, have weekly meetings with my director and team, began my Cornell university public health essentials certificate program, and also work with my director for how to have smoking cessation programs and healthy nutrition and fitness programs in schools.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

I am currently pursuing a master's degree in healthcare administration, with concentrations in health informatics and operations management. My larger career goals include pursuing a doctorate in health informatics or health sciences. I have a clinical background, and now as a fellow I am being exposed to the various public health disparities, administrative issues in the public health and medicine sector, and most of all the vast pressing issues in communities. The social determinants of health, a topic in my degree, is an area that is the most prominent part of understanding how disparities impact a community, and (SDOH) is what NCDOH uses to highlight which disparities are most prevalent. Using epidemiological data, evidence-based research practices, visualizing and understanding data, will be most useful as a researcher or director of a program or specialty hospital. I am working towards becoming a healthcare data analyst, public health analyst and then working towards a director position. The experience I am gaining here is multi-faceted; I am learning how to apply research-based practices to practical methods, what types of resources the community needs, how to approach awareness of chronic diseases, and how to facilitate meetings with CBOs and hospitals.

YASH CHIKARA

He/Him
DVM, MPH

 **Westchester**



EXPERIENCE

1-3 Years of Public Health Experience



FOCUS AREAS

- Public Health Infrastructure Development
- Community Health Assessments/Community Health Improvement Plans (CHA/CHIP)



ABOUT ME

What do you do in your free time?

Basketball, gym, hiking, reading.

What is a fun fact about yourself?

I am ambidextrous.

In my Fellowship position...

Support the planning and preparation for PHAB accreditation, including creating Power BI dashboards to monitor the progress of various projects, such as accreditation and CHIP/CHA. Develop standard operating procedures for programs led by the Westchester County Health Department. Assist with strategic initiatives by supporting implementation, tracking, and effective communication of the department's key projects. This role involves developing and maintaining data dashboards, data briefs, monitoring progress, and providing updates on public health projects to diverse audiences.

How does being a NYSPHC Fellow fit in with your larger career goals?

Being a NYSPHC Fellow allows me to work directly within the community, gaining practical experience in tackling real-world health issues, which is essential for a career in public health. Working alongside seasoned professionals and public health leaders provides mentorship and networking opportunities that are invaluable for advancing in the field.

CONTACT ME



yqc5@westchestercounty
ny.gov



[linkedin.com/in/yashc18311](https://www.linkedin.com/in/yashc18311)