



October 2025 Consortium Fellow Spotlights

Rachael Jagger is a maternal-child health professional dedicated to improving outcomes for families through education, access, and community-based support. Rachel earned her undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Special Education and her passion has always been teaching—whether it’s young children or new parents. She is certified DONA Birth and Postpartum Doula, Certified Childbirth Educator (CAPP), New Parent Educator, and Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC). The comprehensive, evidence-based curricula for free childbirth, lactation, and newborn care classes she developed and implemented in Ontario County have been very successful and were adopted by surrounding counties as a result. Her work bridges clinical education and public health outreach, helping to reduce barriers to prenatal education and postpartum support. She believes that by equipping parents with knowledge and confidence—regardless of income, background, or birth plan—we can build healthier families and stronger communities.

Mary Ross holds a BS in biology and a psychology minor from Syracuse University and an MPH in epidemiology with a certificate in human genetics from the University of Pittsburgh. Before becoming a NYSPHC fellow, she was involved with research ranging from genetics and epigenetics to health education and equity. As a fellow, she utilizes her program planning, program and organizational management, partnership development, and public health communication skills in her daily work.

Rayon Soares is a strategic project manager with over 10 years of experience across public health, government, and military organizations. Currently a Public Health Fellow II and Quality Specialist with Jefferson County Public Health Service, he specializes in data analytics, quality improvement, and performance reporting through KPIs. A former U.S. Army Mortuary Affairs NCOIC and Program Coordinator, Soares holds a Master of Arts in Medical Sciences – Molecular Medicine and is dedicated to advancing public health outcomes through data-driven solutions.