



**2023 CHECK-UP Community-Engaged
Research Workshop Series**

Freedom Dreaming for Health

Equity: Building Upon the Black

Radical Imagination

Hybrid Event:

Zoom

or

In-person at the Fisher Building, 3011 W Grand
Blvd, Detroit, MI 48202

November 30, 2023

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Land Acknowledgment & The Legacy of Native Peoples

Wayne State University rests on Waawiyaataanong (Waa-we-yaa-tih-nong), also referred to as Detroit, the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy. These sovereign lands were granted by the Ojibwe (Oh-jib-way), Odawa (Oh-daa-waa), Potawatomi (Pow-tuh-waa-tuh-mee), and Wyandot nations, in 1807, through the Treaty of Detroit. Wayne State University affirms Indigenous sovereignty and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit.

Radical Welcome

Welcoming Transgender/Non-binary/Gender Nonconforming folks

(Adapted from the 2019 Creating Change--National LGBT Task Force--conference program)

To create radical welcome for members of the Transgender, Non-binary, and Gender Nonconforming (Transgender, Transsexual, genderqueer and more) communities please remember that a person's purposeful gender expression or external appearance may not match their internal gender identity.

About pronouns:

- In this space, we are committed to not making assumptions about anyone's gender identity based on the way they look, sound, or behave.
- Ask "What pronouns do you use?"
- When in doubt use a person's name or gender neutral pronouns, for example, "they/them/theirs".
- Please call people what they ask you to call them and use the pronouns that people ask you to use.
- Remind yourself that some people may be expressing gender differently than the last time you encountered them.
- When you make a mistake about someone's pronoun, make the correction and move on.

Showing up:

Please listen to transgender people's needs and stories when they are volunteered. Respect people's privacy and boundaries and do not ask questions that would wouldn't ask of anyone else.

Introduction

2023 CHECK-UP Community-Engaged Research Workshop Series

Meaningful engagement of diverse community stakeholders in research is increasingly prioritized by federal and philanthropic funding agencies. Although demand for engagement is increasing, support and training for skill building has not kept pace. To address this issue, we will facilitate a series of workshops to build the skills and capacity of academic and community experts.

The workshops we will provide are tailored to the interests and needs of attendees of the 2022 Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) Symposium held at Wayne State University. The symposium occurred over six days in September, October, and November, focused on three unique health equity populations, and had 381 individual attendees including community stakeholders, students, clinicians, and academic faculty and staff. Our workshops are developed in response to the evaluation responses we received, and provide critical insight into the landscape of CEnR, so that academic and community experts are better prepared to interact effectively and collaborate equitably, before, during, and after a project is funded.

Introduction

The Wayne State University (WSU) School of Medicine Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations (CHECK-UP)

CHECK-UP was established in 2021 with the support of the WSU Office of the Vice President of Research (OVPR) to provide an infrastructure to accelerate partnerships between metropolitan Detroit communities and WSU's schools, colleges, centers, and departments to identify, investigate, and act upon the barriers and bridges to health equity in the region. CHECK-UP is driven by the imperative that WSU prioritize and promote shared leadership with community stakeholders in medical and behavioral research. Methodologies that build engagement and participation are central to CHECK-UP because of their promise in reducing health disparities, increasing the public relevance of WSU's research, and expanding the reach of scientific discoveries throughout community at large. CHECK-UP leadership includes Hayley Thompson, PhD, Director, Carrie Leach, PhD, Associate Director of Community Inclusion, and Lisa Braddix, MPH, Steering Committee Chair.

Community Engaged Research (CEnR)

Community-engaged research (CEnR) is a process in which academic researchers work collaboratively with and through community members to identify and address issues affecting the well-being of communities. CEnR has been endorsed and recommended by many but applied by relatively few. This one-day symposium will provide opportunities to learn about and discuss the benefits gained from CEnR, as well as its challenges and strategies for conducting this CEnR successfully. This meeting will also be an opportunity to learn from and network with community members who have identified research priorities for their communities. Topics that will be addressed will include the following:

- How does community engagement contribute to stronger science?
- What are successful models of community-engaged scholarship that academic researchers can follow?
- How can academic institutions support community-engaged scholarship among faculty?
- What are the health research priorities within local Detroit communities?
- What kinds of local opportunities are there for community-engaged research?

Agenda

2023 CHECK-UP Community-Engaged Research Workshop Series:
"Freedom Dreaming for Health Equity: Building Upon the Black Radical
Imagination"

November 30, 2023

- | | IN-PERSON | ZOOM |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 6:00 PM | Dinner & Networking | Speed Networking |
| 6:30 PM | Welcome
Hayley S. Thompson, PhD | |
| 6:35 PM | Panelist Introductions
Chera Reid, PhD | |
| 6:40 PM | Panel Discussion
Kim Sherobbi
Kevin "Coach Kellogg" Jones
Myrtle Thompson-Curtis | |
| 7:40 PM | Question & Answer | |
| 7:55 PM | Wrap-up & Evaluation
Alex Sass, MSW | |
| 8:00 PM | End | |

Panelists & Moderator

Kim Sherobbi, Founder, Birwood House

Kim Sherobbi is a retired physical education teacher, lifelong learner, and community practitioner. She is the founder and director of Birwood House; a community space where she is a listener, visionary organizer and active community member who is committed to local sustainability. At Birwood House, Kim encourages Detroit residents of all ages and visitors from across the country to take responsibility for their neighborhoods, families, and futures based on inclusion, voice, vision, love, and critical connections. Kim is also a Board Member of the James and Grace Lee Boggs Center.



Kevin “Coach Kellogg” Jones, Founder, Jonsin for a Greater Change, Co-founder, Freedom Dreams

Kevin “Coach Kellogg” Jones is a community activist and organizer and the founder of the non-profit organization, *Jonsin For A Greater Change*, which aims to build stronger communities by facilitating connection among residents to discover common interests that support collective growth. Mr. Jones is also a co-founder of Freedom Dreams and board member of the Greater Eastern Market District.



Myrtle Thompson-Curtis, Co-founder, Feedom Freedom Growers

Myrtle Thompson Curtis is a co-founder of Feedom Freedom Growers, a community group and resource committed to growing community relationships.



Panelists & Moderator

Chera Reid, PhD, Co-founder, Freedom Dreams in Philanthropy

Dr. Chera Reid (she/hers) partners with social sector leaders and organizations who are imagining and creating a more just and equitable world. Chera dreams about an expansive practice of education for liberation for her children and for all of our children. She dreams about traveling to places where her family can have racial rest. After twenty years in the social sector, Chera returned to the Black radical tradition of freedom dreaming to reconnect with her creative, bolder self. Chera is co-Executive Director of the Center for Evaluation Innovation. There, her personal inquiry and longstanding commitment to just futures gave rise to Freedom Dreams in Philanthropy, collaborative of social sector professionals who embrace the tradition of freedom dreaming in service to racial justice and collective liberation. Chera previously served as Program Officer in Education and later as inaugural Director of Strategic Learning, Research, and Evaluation at the Kresge Foundation. She guided one of the nation's largest private foundations to become an intentional learning organization rooted in values of equity and opportunity. She also co-led foundation-wide efforts to raise consciousness about race and the impact of structural racism as the foundation made a comprehensive commitment to advancing equity. Before joining Kresge, Chera worked at MDRC, where she focused on ensuring that all students have access to quality public education and can pursue a college education that matches their needs regardless of their family income. She has held leadership positions at New York Needs You and the Phillips Academy Andover Institute for Recruitment of Teachers, programs that expand educational and career opportunities for first-generation, low-income, and students of color. Chera serves on the boards of Grantmakers for Effective Organizations and ProInspire. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, a master's degree from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. from New York University.



CHECK-UP Team

Hayley Thompson, PhD, CHECK-UP Director

Hayley S. Thompson, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Oncology at Wayne State University and the Associate Center Director for Community Outreach and Engagement at the Karmanos Cancer Institute (KCI), an NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center. In this role, she established KCI's Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement (OCHECE) and serves as its faculty supervisor. She is also founding director of the emerging Wayne State University Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations (CHECK-UP). She is a clinical psychologist whose research addresses racial and ethnic disparities in cancer care and outcomes. Her primary focus is community-based intervention research, including investigations of cancer survivorship. She has received funding from the National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Patient-Centered Outcomes and Research Institute, and other agencies and foundations. She is currently a co-principal investigator on the NCI-funded African American Resilience in Surviving Cancer (ARISE) Study. Her research also addresses sociocultural assessment in diverse populations. She led the development of the Group-Based Medical Mistrust Scale (GBMMS), widely used in health disparities research, administered in over 100 published, peer-reviewed studies. She currently directs Michigan Cancer HealthLink, a community-academic partnership to build research capacity in diverse communities within Karmanos Cancer Institute's 46-county catchment area with 150 community members involved in contributing to Karmanos' research agenda. She is also Director of the Community Health Scholars Program within CHECK-UP, designed to support metro Detroit residents in building and applying research skills.



Carrie Leach, PhD, MPA, CHECK-UP Co-Director of Community Inclusion

Carrie Leach is an Assistant Professor of Research at the Institute of Gerontology, Community Engagement Program Manager at the Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors (CURES), and Associate Director for Community Inclusion at the Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations (CHECK-UP) at WSU. Dr. Leach has expertise in health communication, participatory and action research, digital and health literacy, and community-based and aging services delivery and communication. Her research, expertise, and driving passion are focused on improving communication inequities, decision making and public health by developing community-driven solutions derived from participatory processes. Her work at the IOG has focused on partnering with organizational leaders and community residents to evaluate and examine the needs of more than 5,500 older adults across Michigan to translate findings into actionable improvements in aging and community-based services practice and policy. At CURES she works with community stakeholders and researchers to co-construct multi-media materials aimed at improving environmental health literacy in Detroit. Those efforts resulted in disseminating health-protecting information to more than 5,000 Detroiters through face-to-face interactions and thousands more on-line. Her overarching aim is to foster University in-reach, so that the science community and expertise can be leveraged to the benefit of the public, and likewise, so researchers can learn through community engaged experiences and be better allies through their work.



Lisa Braddix, MPH, CHECK-UP Steering Committee Chair

Lisa Braddix is the Chief Health Equity Officer for the Southeastern Michigan Health Association where she works to foster organizational collaboration to improve community health using practical approaches that will eliminate health disparities in marginalized populations throughout southeast Michigan. Lisa has spent several years working in community health and is passionate about issues related to health disparities and health equity. Lisa serves as the Steering Committee Chair for the Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations at Wayne State University. She also is the chair of the Michigan Cancer Consortium Health Equity and Policy Committee and a co-chair of the Healthy Pontiac We Can! Coalition. Lisa is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Sciences and has a Master of Public Health Degree from the University of Michigan. She has also earned a graduate certificate in Non-Profit Management from Eastern Michigan University and is currently a doctoral student at Wayne State University studying the Sociology of Health and Illness.



Alex Sass, MSW

Alex Sass is the manager of research and operations for CHECK-UP. In this position she supports the CEnR Symposium Planning Committees, CHECK-UP Research Networks, as well as the administrative side of CHECK-UP. Additionally, Alex works as a research assistant at Karmanos Cancer Institute, Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement (OCHECE) supporting the work of the Genesee County Cancer Action Council. While receiving her Master's of Social Work at the University of Michigan, her training focused on community-engaged research and health disparities. Alex also works as a research assistant under the NIA funded "Recruiting and Retaining Older African Americans into Research" funding the Healthier Black Elders of Flint program.



CHECK-UP Team

Ten-Niah Kinney, MPH

Ten-Niah Kinney is a Research Assistant in the Department of Oncology at Wayne State University School of Medicine and project manager at CHECK-UP. She received her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in Human Biology and is a current Master of Public Health student at Wayne State University. At WSU, Ten-Niah has worked on several research projects targeting community assessment, developing engagement programming, and methods to improve health outcomes in vulnerable populations. Previously Ten-Niah worked in collaboration with CVS Health, as a COVID immunizer and health care ambassador where she partnered on pharmacy community campaigns that addressed barriers to medication adherence and care accessibility.



Mikayla Harrison, BS

Mikayla Harrison is the newest member of the Center for Health Equity and Community Knowledge in Urban Populations (CHECK UP) team. Mikayla is originally from Detroit, Michigan, where she attended Cass Technical High School. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Human Biology with a minor in Religion from Michigan State University in May 2022. Mikayla is currently pursuing a Masters of Public Health at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. Mikayla has been committed to giving back to her community throughout her educational journey. She has volunteered with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the American Red Cross. Mikayla volunteers at Hannah's House, a shelter for disadvantaged pregnant women, and Sparrow Hospital's Emergency Department, both in East Lansing. At CHECK UP, Mikayla's core projects include working with the Cancer Action Councils and African American Resilience in Surviving Cancer.



CHECK-UP Team

Zachary Cichon, BS

Zach Cichon, BS is a Research Assistant at Karmanos Cancer Institute, Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement (OCHECE) and Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSU SOM), Department of Oncology. Zach works closely with Cancer Action Councils (CACs) as well as with CHECK-UP research networks to help cancer survivors, caregivers, and community members build capacity and participate in research. He is currently earning a Master's of Public Health (MPH) degree with a concentration in population health analytics from Wayne State University. He is interested in identifying health disparities and addressing them through community level interventions.



Zainab Ahmed, BS

Zainab Ahmed, BS is a graduate student in her second year at Wayne State University's MPH program and hope to graduate in May 2024. She was born in Grand Rapids but was in the suburbs of Detroit. She graduated from Wayne State with she received her Bachelor's of Science in Public Health with University Honors back in 2021. She got into research in her second year of undergraduate studies and worked on a feasibility study that was funded through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) and was lucky enough to be selected to present at the NCUR in Atlanta, Georgia in 2019.



John High III, BS,BA

John High III is a Master of Public Health student at Michigan State University. John is also a two-time Michigan State University graduate, earning his Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and a Bachelor of Art in Interdisciplinary Studies: Health and Society. During undergrad, John worked as a research assistant with the Department of Kinesiology at Michigan State University. John currently serves as a research assistant at Karmanos Cancer Institute, which is designated as a National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center. Through his involvement, he speaks to grade school students in Detroit, encouraging them to further their education. John is a fierce advocate for health equity, striving to improve access to care and social determinants of health in underserved urban communities.



Contact



WAYNE STATE CHECK-UP

Center for Health Equity and Community
Knowledge in Urban Populations

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