



CHRONIC DISEASE
PREVENTION COUNCIL

Welcome to our first Monthly Newsletter!

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Meet your CDPC staff -

We can't wait to see you!

These past few months have been challenging for everyone, and we hope that you are all safe and healthy amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

We feel extremely fortunate for our staff who have been working from home and we want to take this opportunity to formally introduce them to you and welcome them to our team.

*we can't wait to
see you*

Laurel McCloskey, Executive Director



Laurel, a native New Mexican, is a proven public health leader with experience in health policy, clinical research, non-profit communications, program development, and community advocacy. Since 2011, she has served as the Executive Director of the Chronic Disease Prevention Council, working to coordinate chronic disease efforts statewide by focusing on the areas of arthritis, cancer, diabetes, heart disease and stroke, obesity, and tobacco use. This work involves the facilitation of the New Mexico Shared Strategic Plan for Prevention and

Control of Chronic Disease 2012-2016. Laurel has worked to coordinate successful partnership facilitation, create a non-profit, champion chronic disease media development, and engage workgroup activities to affect chronic disease outcomes. This includes managing the statewide tobacco control policy coalition, the New Mexico Allied Council on Tobacco.

Laurel earned a B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis in 2003, studying International Studies and Psychology, and completed her M.P.H. at Johns Hopkins University in 2010.

Trish Garduño **Administration, Communications & Marketing**

Trish has spent her career in Management, Business Development, Human Resources, National Fund-Raising, Operations, and Public Relations in both the private and public sectors. She is skilled in building relationships to secure funding and support from various sources and has strong technical and business qualifications with a successful track record of hands-on experience in strategic planning, business development, project development and operations management. She is a results-driven professional with experience in organizational and fiscal management in non-profit membership organizations and trade associations. Trish is from Rowe, New Mexico, and earned a B.S. in mathematics from the University of New Mexico. Trish is also a *Retablo* artist and spends most of her free time in Pecos, New Mexico enjoying the fresh air in the *sierra*!



Devona Valdez, Membership & Events Director



Devona has more than 12 years' experience of event and program management, growing and scaling events and programs for nonprofit organizations and business communities.

Devona joins the CDPC from Fidelity Investments where she served as the program manager in which she handled request for proposals throughout 6 regions of the organization. Through her role, she helped save more than 5 million dollars resulting in more revenue for the business. Her prior roles came from EC-Council and the NM Cancer Center Foundation where she served as the events manager handling special fundraising events, educational conferences, and highly advanced technical training.

She is a native New Mexican who also currently volunteers for the Lap Dog Rescue of New

Mexico in which she fosters dogs in need until they find their forever home. “I am very excited and honored to work for the CDPC. This new chapter in my life is a wonderful opportunity to continue my passion in making a difference in the community, and to grow my career with such a compassionate organization.”

Apeksha Dighe Community Events Coordinator

Apeksha is our Community Events Coordinator, she has recently been working on our partnered Million Hearts National Initiative. She has lived in New Mexico her whole life and graduated from UNM in 2016 with a B.S in Biology and Double Major in Psychology. Apeksha is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Epidemiology from UNM. She believes chronic disease greatly impact people's quality of life and is committed to dispensing accurate, reliable information to fellow New Mexicans. She enjoys reading, cooking, outdoor activities and trying out new restaurants and breweries.



Partner Spotlight



By Alex Ross-Reed

Fierce Pride advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming, and queer health and wellbeing. We are a New Mexico grassroots network of volunteers working to promote health in LGBTQ+ communities since 2005. LGBTQ+ people (and people who are in other marginalized groups) experience more health problems than the general populations. Fierce Pride works towards reducing health

inequities on multiple levels. One way we do that is to reduce commercial tobacco dependence in our community. We never blame the smoker. People use tobacco and nicotine for many reasons, and nicotine is highly addictive. We want members of the

LGBTQ+ community to know about free resources to help to quit, if and when they are ready (1-800-QUIT-NOW). More broadly, we seek to address the root causes of tobacco use, which are homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, institutional exclusion, and other forms of oppression. Fierce Pride brings together a diverse coalition of members to be a voice for LGBTQ+ people in chronic disease prevention, sexual violence prevention, and mental healthcare in order to change systems to better serve LGBTQ+ individuals.

LGBTQ+ people deserve high-quality, affirming healthcare, including mental health services. This is why Fierce Pride created [Bright Spaces, Welcome Places](#), a directory of agencies that provide mental health services. Each listing has shown their commitment to LGBTQ+ health by adopting recommended policies and creating environments welcoming for LGBTQ+ patients. One recommendation for agencies is a cessation referral system that enrolls clients in nicotine/commercial tobacco QUIT NOW services. Fierce Pride is currently seeking mental health agencies around the state to add to our directory. The acceptance process is simple and easy, please contact stacy@brightspacesnm.org for more information.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Fierce Pride, please email Alex@fiercepride.org.

If you want to get our quarterly email newsletters with LGBTQ health information and resources, sign up here: www.fiercepride.org

If you are a healthcare or mental healthcare professional and want information about continuing education and opportunities to improve your care to LGBTQ+ clients, sign up for our Bright Spaces, Welcome Places quarterly newsletter, at our website www.srightspacesnm.org.

Quarterly Meeting Racism as a Public Health Issue

June 23, 2020 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

via ZOOM



Maria Otero
Executive Director NMCWHA
and Co-Founder *Nuestra
Salúd*



John Linney, MA
Impact Coaching &
Speaking
www.impact-associates.org

Frances E. Ashe-Goins

Frances E. Ashe-Goins, RN,
BSN., MPH., FAAN, Ph.D.
(Hon)

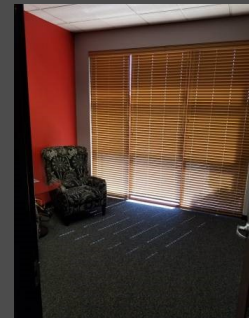
*Asthma and
understanding cultural
and language
differences in families:
A Photovoice Project*

*World Café
&
New Mexico Shared
Strategic Plan (NMSSP) for
Prevention and Control of
Chronic Disease: the three
2020 Priority Goals*

*Population Health and
Health Disparities*



CDPC New Office Location 6700 Jefferson NE, Suite C-3



For more information, click on a CDPC staff member's picture and be directed to their e-mail.

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