**Public Health & Parks and Recreation Summit:**

**For the Sake of Connecting with our Communities**

**March 2, 2018**

**Speaker Biographies**

**Chandi Aldena** has been with The Trust for Public Land since 2014. As the Colorado Parks for People Project Coordinator she is responsible for community engagement and outreach, planning and design support, and project coordination. The program currently includes park renovation and new park construction projects, connecting kids to nature through the GOCO Inspire Initiative and the Metro Denver Nature Alliance, and Creative Placemaking with local artists to incorporate public art in park projects across the Denver Metro Area. In 2016 she began working with local partners Groundwork Denver, Denver Parks and Recreation, and Denver Public Health to pilot the Park RX Program at Mestizo-Curtis Park. She loves engaging residents of all ages in park design and enjoys the opportunity to work collaboratively with colleagues in Colorado and across the country to further the Parks for People mission, that everyone in the U.S. lives within a 10-minute walk of a quality park. [chandi.aldena@tpl.org](mailto:chandi.aldena@tpl.org)

**Janet Bartnik** displayed her talent for developing innovative partnerships by engaging four community partners in a project to study and strategically plan to address childhood obesity through a Healthy Communities Research Group project.  She worked with the Liberty Park Board to develop a new vision, mission, and capital project plan for the Department and has worked with the Liberty Parks and Recreation Charitable Fund to receive public charity status. For a decade prior to joining Liberty's team, Bartnik was the Director in Raymore, MO, a fast-growing community of 15,000 south of Kansas City.  Janet has been aggressive in seeking alternative strategies for funding, land acquisition, and had developed a recreation program for Raymore which had previously only had parks. Janet became Executive Director of the Western Eagle County Metropolitan Recreation District in August 2017.  Bartnik holds a B.S. in Exercise Science and an M.S. in Sport Management from Virginia Tech. [jbartnik@wecmrd.org](mailto:jbartnik@wecmrd.org)

**Justin Cutler** is the Recreation Services Manager for the City of Westminster, a three-time gold medal winning agency. He and his team oversee 288,000 sqft of recreation facilities and over 1,000 recreation programs. Mr. Cutler has a passion for continuous improvement, leadership, public health integration, and local government, and has presented on these topics at state, regional, and national conference.  He has served in roles such as executive director, analyst, and recreation coordinator, in both rural and urban settings. What he enjoys most about his work is building partnership with non-traditional partners and empowering his team to move beyond their perceived abilities to achieve more than they could imagine. In his spare time with his family he enjoys cycling, skiing, and climbing Colorado’s 14’ers. [jcutler@CityofWestminster.us](mailto:jcutler@CityofWestminster.us)

**Sandra Douglas** moved to Denver, Colorado, in 1980 and earned her Master’s degree in Nonprofit Management, with an emphasis in Resident Advocacy from Regis University in 1996. As a natural progression in her personal and professional life, Sandra joined Groundwork Denver’s team in 2017. Sandra believes in the mission of Groundwork Denver, which is to improve the physical environment and promote health and well-being through community-based partnerships and action. Currently, Sandra works to achieve this mission through her role as project manager of Groundwork Denver’s Park Prescription (Rx) Program. The purpose of ParkRx is to encourage active use of Denver’s oldest park, Mestizo-Curtis Park. Sandra engages neighborhood residents in daily health and fitness activities with a focus on underserved parents, grandparents, and their children/ grandchildren. The ParkRx program allows Sandra to use her expertise with engaging residents and building partnerships and allows her to enjoy the work she has done for the past 25 years. Sandra believes that resident participation is the key to neighborhood revitalization. With a passion for people and a need to serve others, she has always pursued projects and endeavors that put community first. [sandy@groundworkcolorado.org](mailto:sandy@groundworkcolorado.org)

**Dody Erickson** is the Director of Special Projects for the City and County of Denver. [Dody.Erickson@denvergov.org](mailto:Dody.Erickson@denvergov.org)

**Marc Garstka** is the program coordinator and therapist at the Aurora Strong Resilience Center (ASRC). ASRC is part of the Aurora Mental Health Center and was opened in response to the Aurora theater shooting. Marc joined the ASRC team in 2016 after he completed his MSW at the University of Denver. [MarcGarstka@aumhc.org](mailto:MarcGarstka@aumhc.org)

**Maritza Gutierrez** is theAssociate Director of Cultivando. Maritza is deeply passionate about bringing community leaders and partners together to collaborate on creating inclusive and safe communities.[Maritza@cultivando.org](mailto:Maritza@cultivando.org)

**Lena Heilmann** isthe Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator in the Office of Suicide Prevention at the CDPHE. For ten years, Lena taught German language, literature, and culture at universities in Colorado, Washington, Iowa, and Illinois. After the loss of her sister to suicide in 2012, Lena decided to leave academia in order to support suicide prevention efforts full-time. Lena has taught as a Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainer for Longmont, CO. [lena.heilmann@state.co.us](mailto:lena.heilmann@state.co.us)

**Janette Heung** is the deputy director of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office (ORec) She works to support economic development within the industry, develop a dynamic workforce, advance conservation and stewardship, and promote health and wellness in the sector. Janette’s love for the outdoors directly feeds into her zeal for protecting it-when she’s not exploring outside, she is working on a range of environmental policy, public health and business challenges. [janette.heung@state.co.us](mailto:janette.heung@state.co.us)

**Sarah Johnson** is the Community Network Coordinator at Mesa County Public Health, focusing on increasing social capital and improving the social determinants of health in neighborhoods across the community. She was previously the Director of Child and Family Programs at Strive, which supports individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families, and currently chairs Mesa County's Early Childhood Steering Committee. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University and a master's degree in social work from Colorado State University. [sarah.johnson@mesacounty.us](mailto:sarah.johnson@mesacounty.us)

**Lynnzy McIntosh** is Executive Director of COAW and has been with the organization since 2008. COAW, the Consortium for Older Adult Wellness, is the first Colorado organization to be fully recognized by the National Diabetes Recognition Program of the Centers for Disease Control. Thanks to the support of the Kaiser Permanente Community Benefits Fund COAW has been able to train over 50 Lifestyle Coaches and to date has over 35 NDPP classes in progress or completed. COAW is looking forward to sharing info on establishing referrals from health systems and tracking the data toward recognition. [lynnzy@coaw.org](mailto:lynnzy@coaw.org)

**Teresa L. Penbrooke** is currently Faculty and Co-Founder of GP RED, a national non-profit that provides Research, Education, and Development for health, recreation, and land management agencies. She serves as the Director of the Healthy Communities Research Group, focusing on healthy community design. In addition, Teresa is the CEO and Founder of GreenPlay, LLC, a leading national private parks, recreation, tourism, and open space consulting firm, which has completed plans for over 450 communities since 1999. Teresa also is a Visiting Scholar at North Carolina State University, having received her PhD there in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management in 2017. Her academic career started with a BS in Kinesiology and a Master’s in Organizational Management. Teresa now writes books and articles, teaches for state and national associations and universities, and consults on operations, management, master planning, and community engagement. She loves combining her natural intellectual curiosity, entrepreneurial spirit, and public-sector heart to help communities thrive. [teresap@GreenPlayllc.com](mailto:teresap@GreenPlayllc.com)

**Taylor Roberts** is a Chronic Disease Prevention Specialist with the Tri-County Health Department. As a member of TCHD's Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention team, Taylor contributes to community programs related to tobacco control, substance misuse prevention and youth marijuana prevention. Taylor also participates in TCHD's Public Health Incident Management Team and mental health promotion projects and is a member of the Youth Work Group for the Colorado Suicide Prevention Commission. A former NCAA All-American athlete, Taylor works with the Positive Coaching Alliance, USOC SafeSport, USA Swimming and USA Diving in promoting student athlete health and wellness and is the Head Diving Coach at Regis Jesuit High School. In his free time, Taylor is a competitive disc golfer and enjoys riding motorcycles and spending time with his wife and daughter. [troberts@tchd.org](mailto:troberts@tchd.org)    
  
**Traci Wieland** is the Recreation Superintendent for the City of Grand Junction and has been with the City since 2000. She oversees recreation programs, events, and facilities and manages special projects including master planning, grant writing, and new park development/redevelopment. Traci has a Master’s in Public Administration from the University of Colorado – Denver. [traciw@gjcity.org](mailto:traciw@gjcity.org)

**Sarony Young** is a Health Systems Policy Coordinator in the Prevention Services Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. In that capacity she serves as a leader and advocate for chronic disease prevention and access to care initiatives. [sarony.young@state.co.us](mailto:sarony.young@state.co.us)

**Monica Younger** is the Behavioral Health Coordinator for Tri-County Health Department. In this role she helps administer the SIM LPHA grant that was awarded to the Metro Public Health Behavioral Health Collaboration, the collaborating public health agencies from Denver, Boulder, Broomfield, Jefferson, and the Tri-County jurisdiction of Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas counties. She enjoys being outside in our great state--hiking, cycling, running, or wading through a stream.