

PHPR Summit 2024 Speaker Bios and Contact Info

Ryan Acker, All People Thriving, ryan@allpeoplethriving.com

Ryan Acker has been a human rights advocate for 25 years and specializes in human-centered advocacy, organization management and program development. As a partner in the Cultural Wellness program, he uses his professional background in population-based health intervention and his lived experiences as an LGBT person, person who has been incarcerated, and person who has suffered from mental illness, to work with and empower others to create inclusive, accessible and equitable health, public health and social service programs. Ryan has served as Executive Director for both regional and statewide organizations, and has worked directly with a wide variety of populations, including families in crisis, LGBTQ communities, individuals and families experiencing homelessness and poverty, people with a mental health diagnosis, people facing addictions, people leaving incarceration, people facing systemic health care access barriers, people with a wide variety of abilities and mobility capacities, and many others. He has an Associate's Degree in Social Services and Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Colorado State University (Pueblo), and enjoys DIY projects. Ryan currently resides in rural Ohio with his shepwieler, Rio.

Zuza Bohley, Love 4 Nature Inc., Americas for Conservation + the Arts, Promotores Verdes, Zuzabohley@gmail.com

Zuza Bohley is a trained anthropologist and certified bilingual guide for Forest and Nature Therapy since 2019. She has been involved with the environmental justice movement for more than 40 years to uplift and empower vulnerable and marginalized communities. Zuza is very active in many nonprofit organizations, one of the most prominent being the Promotores Verdes program, an intergenerational program that has received multiple awards locally, regionally, and nationally. Besides her deep love for nature, Zuza enjoys spending time with her family, especially taking her two young granddaughters on outdoor adventures. In 2023 Zuza founded Love 4 Nature.org to build and grow a legacy with focus on planetary health with a strong equity lens. She was selected to be part of the year-long Metro DNA Equity Task Force, co-creating the new vision for Metro Denver Nature Alliance, setting statewide standards for diversity, equity and inclusion necessary to advance social, environmental, public and mental health throughout the region.

Jo Burns, JoBurnsConnects, LLC – jo@joburnsconnects.com

Jo is known for her work bringing together professionals from parks, recreation and public health. She is the co-founder of the Public Health/Parks & Recreation Collaborative of Colorado. The collaborative has focused on common interests and mutual impact areas, such as reducing obesity, increasing opportunities for physical activity, and developing walk-able communities. Jo is a skillful connector with 20+ years of experience in community, camp, association and higher ed parks & recreation settings, and continues to be a CTRS. With numerous public speaking engagements, and critically acclaimed workshops, Jo is a recognized expert in parks and public health arenas.

Rachel Cohen, LinkAGES Connects and Aging Dynamics, rachel@aging-dynamics.com

Ms. Cohen is the Founder and CEO of Aging Dynamics consulting firm and the Executive Director of LinkAGES intergenerational initiative committed to addressing social isolation, loneliness and ageism through meaningful intergenerational connections. She has a diverse background in community

planning and social work. Rachel has 30 years of experience working and consulting with public and private organizations of all sizes, and across sectors. Ms. Cohen facilitates collaboration lending her expertise in social services, housing, community development, environmental education, aging, and food systems. She helps entities understand and work with one another to achieve common goals on the local, statewide, and national level. By leveraging funds, staff, knowledge, and networks, together they build communities that are supportive, engaging, and equitable places to grow up and grow older.

Kate Cooke, AICP, City of Westminster, kcooke@westminsterco.gov

Community engagement and community building are the foundation of Kate's career. As a land use planner, she has facilitated the formation of community groups and has effectively implemented projects that bridge the goals of neighborhoods, adjacent businesses, and transportation facilities. In her current role, she champions arts and culture programming to make meaningful community connections. With a Master of Urban Planning and Master of Public Administration, she is a strategic thinker that seeks to find synergies and partnerships to accomplish a community's vision. She is a former Edgewater City Council member and a former member of the Jefferson County Community Development Advisory Board. In her spare time, she enjoys being active with her two daughters and three dogs.

Dannon Cox, Colorado School of Public Health at UNC, dannon.cox@unco.edu

Dannon Cox is an Assistant Professor of Community Health Education at the Colorado School of Public Health at UNC, and his research is focused on digital media pedagogies in public health. He has an interdisciplinary background in media production, pedagogy, and sport and exercise science. Dannon has numerous articles and creative works in press and published covering pedagogy, the intersection between education and physical activity, and media production. Dannon received this PhD in Sport and Exercise Science from the University of Northern Colorado.

Rachele C Espiritu, PhD, Change Matrix, respiritu@changematrix.org

Dr. Espiritu is a Filipina immigrant and a research psychologist who centers equity in the training, technical assistance, and capacity building in the areas of behavioral health, evaluation, workforce development, systems change, and policy development. She is a founding partner with Change Matrix, a minority- and woman-owned small business that motivates, manages and measures change to support communities and systems that improve lives. She has deep professional and personal experience in the state of Colorado including leading the Colorado Equity Compass, a project that works to improve health equity outcomes in communities across the state through data storytelling.

Brandon Figliolino, RTD, Brandon.Figliolino@rtd-denver.com

Brandon Figliolino is the Manager of Community Engagement programming at the Regional Transportation District.

Stacey Halvorsen, Colorado Mountain Club & Colorado Center for Primary Care Innovation, staceyh@cmc.org

Stacey Halvorsen has a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Washington with emphasis on non-profit management, education policy, and environmental and multicultural education. She has been managing programs, facilitating community partnerships,

developing curriculum, and teaching outdoor and environmental education for over 18 years in Colorado and the Northwest. She is currently the Chief Education Officer at Colorado Mountain Club and the Vice President and Co-Founder of the Colorado Center for Primary Care Innovation. As an ACE-Certified Health Coach for over 7 years, Stacey is a Subject Matter Expert for the American Council on Exercise (ACE) and is passionate about wellness.

Libby Harrington, Adams County Health Department - eharrington@adcogov.org

Libby Harrington is a Community Prevention & Policy Specialist at Adams County Health Department (ACHD) and serves rural communities in Adams County through her work with I-70 Corridor Communities That Care. Before her work at ACHD, Libby worked at Tri-County Health Department furthering youth engagement and substance use prevention in Adams County. She is a passionate servant leader with a commitment to centering youth and community. Libby received her Master's degree in public health at the Colorado School of Public Health and her bachelor's of science in human services at University of Northern Colorado. While in school, Libby focused her studies on rural health and community health education.

Rachel Juritsch, CSU Extension - Adams County 4-H Youth Development, rjuritsch@adcogov.org

Rachel Juritsch is the 4-H Health & Well-Being Specialist with CSU Extension - Adams County 4H. Using her background in natural science education, she is providing youth with tools to support their physical and mental health.

Leah Krumpholz, City of Westminster, lkrumpho@westminsterco.gov

Leah Krumpholz is the Senior Event Planner for the City of Westminster, where she produces an average of 20 events a year. Since assuming her position in 2016, Leah has grown event attendance by nearly 400%. Masterfully resourceful, Leah can hand-assemble marshmallow Peep costumes out of thin air.

Alex Reaves, City of Westminster, areaves@westminsterco.gov

Alex Reaves is the Operations Manager, City of Westminster Parks, Recreation, and Libraries. He has over 20 years of experience in parks and recreation. His extensive background involves supervising multiple operations, managing diverse projects, and contributing to the development and coordination of various community events. With a profound passion for promoting community engagement and well-being, Alex brings a wealth of knowledge and practical insights to discussions on recreation, wellness, and community development.

Micaela Sanchez, North Range Behavioral Health, micaela.sanchez@northrange.org

Micaela Sanchez is the Director of Marketing and Community Outreach and Suicide Education and Support Services at North Range Behavioral Health. An avid advocate for behavioral health and suicide prevention, Micaela is committed to shifting perceptions around mental health in our communities, raising awareness around behavioral health, and helping Weld County residents connect to support. Raised in Weld County, Micaela has close ties to the community she serves. Her career began in public libraries, where she served in various capacities during her tenure through early childhood services, community programming and outreach, advocacy, marketing, and public relations. Micaela was honored as Colorado Librarian of the Year in 2018 by the Colorado Association of Libraries. During her time at North Range Behavioral Health, Micaela has launched a host of mental health awareness campaigns

such as the Spark Hope. Save a Life, (Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month), Be Kind to Your Mind (Mental Health Awareness Month), and Feeling Golden (50 Years of Wellness in Weld County/NRBH 50th Anniversary). She is a certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor, holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Northern Colorado, and a master's degree in library and information science (MLIS) with an emphasis in early childhood librarianship, from the University of Denver.

Jane West, Heart of the West Counseling, heartofthewestcounseling@gmail.com

Jane has been guiding forest bathing walks since 2015 and was the first certified nature and forest therapy guide in Colorado. Jane has brought these lovely wellness walks to individuals, couples and groups of all kinds, including wedding parties, frontline medical and mental health professionals, and community leaders from all over the state. Jane has also been a part of the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy international training and has helped naturalists in Colorado integrate forest bathing into their existing activities. In Eagle County, Jane has been providing snowshoe nature tours and alpine and telemark ski lessons for Vail Resorts for over 25 years. Jane is a longstanding licensed professional counselor and child development specialist and a documentary producer.

Jamie Zerr-Lockwood, Corridor Creative Arts League, jlzerr@msn.com

Jamie is a self-taught artist and enjoys exploring a variety of mediums (www.jzlockwood.com/). Currently a resident artist at Valkarie Gallery in Lakewood. Bringing attention to the precious wildlife that we take for granted has been my focus for the past couple of years. I believe that humans and nature could work together in harmony if given the chance. Another part of my artistic journey includes my pet portrait business (www.petportraitsbyjamie.com). I decided to start this business because of my love for dogs. After experiencing the loss of our beloved yellow lab in 2016, I painted a portrait of him and realized that I have a knack of capturing the personality of our furry friends quite well. Along with being a very active artist, I sit on several art committees and commissions with the goal of maintaining public art programs available to the community. I believe that publicly funded art programs bring awareness to the happiness and joy that art provides. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes for these programs, and I am honored to be a part of it. I am a member of the Woman's Art Caucus of Colorado and currently serve on the Bennett Arts Council (founding member) for the eastern plains. This council has made huge strides on bringing art to the rural area along the I-70 East Corridor of Colorado. Additionally, I am the president and founder of the Corridor Creative Arts League, the group that led the mural project.