

Los Angeles County Lesbian Health Collaborative 2013

Becky Allegretto, N.P., M.S.N., M.B.A.,
Nurse Practitioner, UCLA Center for Esophageal Disorders



Becky Allegretto is a nurse practitioner in the UCLA Center for Esophageal Disorders. She is a board member for the GLBT Cancer Network- a group dedicated to advocacy and education regarding cancer within the GLBT community. She is also involved in developing a website called www.lavenderhealth.org, a source for reputable health information for the GLBT community. She has also developed a comprehensive program for patients undergoing esophageal surgery. She co-authored the P.E.A.C.E. Program with Dr. Maish, which is a comprehensive pre-operative education program which includes an educational video. She is involved in clinical & psychosocial care, support groups, education, coordination of treatment/surgery and close follow up with all patients who come through the Center. Becky is involved in nursing research at UCLA and is currently conducting a research study to examine the effects of specific types of surgical education on patients undergoing esophagectomy. Allegretto pursued her M.S.N at the University of California, Los Angeles, her M.B.A. at Temple University, and her B.S.N. at Villanova University.

Susan Cochran, Ph. D.
Professor, UCLA School of Public Health



Susan Cochran's interests concentrate on understanding how psychological and social factors influence health. In particular, Cochran's work focuses on understanding the role of social stigma and discrimination in health care access, health behaviors, mental health, and health outcomes. Cochran also has several published works on topic including smoking behaviors, drug severity in the LGBT community, tobacco and alcohol use. Her research interests are in the psychosocial determinants of health-related behaviors. Cochran, by training, is both a psychologist and an epidemiologist, she received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at UCLA.

Farina Yasmin Dary, B.S., R.N.
Program Coordinator, LA Gay and Lesbian Center
City of West Hollywood, Lesbian Visibility Committee



Farina Yasmin Dary has committed herself to the LGBT community for over 10 years. As the program coordinator for the Alcohol and other Drugs program at the LA Gay & Lesbian Center's Health Education Unit, she grew the small program through her dedication. Today the AOD's events include events that cater to LGBT youth by offering a drug-free environment to celebrate, socialize, and dance such as Club Freedom, Oasis of Pride, and Rainbow Youth Festival. The Senior-Youth photo project, another example of her accomplishments, seeks to increase self-efficacy and self-worth among youth who participate in it. Among the larger-scale events is "Mind, Body and Soul", a women's health conference which seeks to increase knowledge regarding the impact of substance use on women's health as well as knowledge regarding other health issues impacting Lesbian women. With the need for transgender-specific programs and mobilization, Trans-Unity helps to reunite the community with a Pride-event. Dary completed her B.S. in Biology from USC and her R.N. from Mount St. Mary's.

Dr. Allison Diamant, M.D., M.S.H.S.
Adj. Associate Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Service Research at
UCLA School of Medicine



Dr. Diamant has very strong research and clinical interests in striving to eliminate disparities in access to and receipt of health care as a means to ultimately improving health. Her research includes the study of access and quality of care for underserved and vulnerable populations, as well as the evaluation of programs to study care provided to low-income and uninsured populations, breast cancer care for uninsured women, racial and ethnic disparities in colorectal cancer diagnosis and the effect of sexual orientation on access to health care and health status. In addition, she is an active primary care physician. The findings from her work have been presented at national conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals. She is currently collaborating with state and local health departments on a number of projects.

Diamant received her training through the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program and the UCLA School of Public Health, and received a Master of Science in Health Science. She attended Hahnemann University for her M.D., and UCLA for her residency training in Internal Medicine.

Ellen Eidem, M.S.

Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health (OWH)



A longtime proponent of women's health, Ms. Eidem serves as the Director of the L.A. County Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health (OWH), responsible for strategic planning, developing and managing programs, including a 7 language hotline, developing educational and awareness campaigns, establishing community partner networks, planning community events, working with mainstream and ethnic media, developing data and health briefs, and recommending policy and programs to improve the health status of women, especially low income and underserved women. She is responsible for the Women's Health Policy Council, the advisory body to the L.A. OWH, and served for many years until its closure as a member of the Women's Policy Council for the State of California. Previously, Ms. Eidem served as the Director of Programs and Administration for the Los Angeles Free Clinic (dba: The Saban Free Clinic) where she oversaw 8 departments and 102 staff, managing revenue, expenses and services for each program. She was also the Director of Quality Improvement for the California and Los Angeles Regional Family Planning Councils (dba: California Family Health Council) and Manager of Planned Parenthood San Francisco and the Berkeley Women's Health Collective.

Julie Friedman, M.P.H.

Director, Iris Cantor – UCLA Women's Health Education and Resource Center



Julie A. Friedman has an eclectic background in health education, worksite wellness, early childhood development, and workforce development. She served as the Executive Director of the Early Childhood Parenting Center, Children's Hospital Los Angeles' Healthy Children-Healthy City project, and Health & Family @ Work, an organization helping the low wage workforce manage their health and family challenges on and off the job. Ms. Friedman has a strong background in women's health issues. The Los Angeles Times' employee health promotion program she managed offered a wide spectrum of intergenerational health and family programs and services that were accessed by all levels of employees

from entry level to executives. She was instrumental in founding Worksite Wellness LA, a non profit organization providing onsite health education to low wage workers in downtown LA and nearby business districts. She is currently the Director of the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Education & Resource Center (WHERC), a recognized model center that integrates clinical, educational and health promotion programs, strategies, and research. Ms. Friedman earned her MPH at California State University Northridge.

Annette “Chi” Hughes, M.S.W.
Founder, ANetteWork



Chi Hughes is the founder of ANetteWork, a consulting group that assists non-profit organizations in organizational development and social enterprise creation. Working in the social services field for twenty-five years, she has gained a range of hands-on experience in program planning, development and implementation. Her program models have been replicated nationally in training programs and training facilitation formats for an array of service organizations. She was a Steering Committee Member for the National Association of Social Worker's 'HIV/AIDS Spectrum: Mental Health Training/Education of Social Workers Project'. Ms. Hughes is also a contributing author to national mental health publications. Hughes is the co-founder of the Lambda Student Alliance at Howard University and co-founder of Sapphire Sapphos of Washington, D.C. Ms. Hughes received her B.A. from Howard University and her M.S.W. from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Therese Hughes, M.U.P.
Board Member, California Lesbian Project



Therese A. Hughes has worked for two members of the U.S Congress--the late Honorable E. M. Kennedy and the Honorable Linda T. Sanchez where she served as the Congresswoman's Health Deputy, Women's Issues, GLTBQ Issues and Grants Manager. Ms. Hughes served as one of fourteen members on the two-year congressional mandated Health Committee: The Wyden-Hatch Citizens Health Care Working Group. She created Legislative and Advocacy Programs for the Venice Family Clinic as an Americorp/Vista and

for an additional 8 years. Ms. Hughes served for three years in a Pro-Bono advisory position to the West Hollywood Lesbian Visibility Committee - Heath Subcommittee. She currently serves as a Board Member of the California Lesbian Project and is the inaugural President of California Women Lead - Los Angeles County Chapter. Ms. Hughes received her Master's in Urban Planning (M.U.P.) from the University of California Los Angeles.

Dr. Lynn Hunt, M.D.

Clinical Faculty, University of California, Irvine



Lynn Hunt is a pediatrician and practices at a federally qualified health center in downtown Santa Ana. She is Clinical Professor at UC Irvine in the Division of General Pediatrics. Dr. Hunt was on the board of directors of GLMA (Gay and Lesbian Medical Association) from 2004 through 2010 and is immediate past president of the Lesbian Health Fund. She is president elect for California Chapter 4 of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Hunt currently has a small planning grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics helping to connect LGBTQ youth in Orange County to medical homes. Dr. Hunt obtained her M.D. at the University of California, Irvine.

Kathy Ketchum, M.B.A.

Chief Administrative Officer, L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center



Ketchum worked with Pacific Bell in various management positions in the areas of human resources, finance, engineering, operations, marketing and external affairs. She spent five years in real estate sales and management and mortgage banking and served on the Manhattan Beach Planning Commission. As Chief Administrative Officer, Kathy Ketchum oversees Human Resources, Volunteer Resources, Cultural Arts programming, labor relations, and the director of facilities in maintaining services and security for all of the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's sites. As a Los Angeles Area native, Ketchum received her B.A. in psychology from California State University, Fullerton, and an M.B.A. from Pepperdine University.

West Hollywood City Mayor and Executive Director/CEO, The Trevor Project



A resident of West Hollywood since 1979, Mayor Abbe Land was part of the successful campaign to make West Hollywood an independent city in 1984. In 1986, she was elected to the City Council and served with distinction until 1997, when she did not seek another term. In 2003, Mayor Land returned to public service winning a seat on the City Council. She has served four terms as Mayor, and is currently serving her fifth. Mayor Land also serves as the Executive Director and CEO of The Trevor Project, the nation's leading provider of crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Prior to working at The Trevor Project, she served as the Co-Chief Executive Officer of The Saban Free Clinic (formerly known as the Los Angeles Free Clinic). A recognized leader in healthcare management, Mayor Land initiated the City's "Well West Hollywood" program to encourage increased physical activity to help reduce the rates of disease and death from chronic illness. Widely known for her leadership on women's issues, LGBT rights and civil liberties, Mayor Land was instrumental in creating the City's Women's and Disability Advisory Boards. She was also active in developing the City's pioneering domestic violence prevention program for same-sex couples. She currently serves on the advisory board of Women Against Gun Violence and on the L.A. County Department of Health Services' Women's Health Policy Council.

Susan M. LaVaccare, M.A.

Health & Wellness Consultant



Susan M. LaVaccare is a founding member of the Los Angeles County Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Health Collaborative. She is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association's Lesbian Health Fund Advisory Committee and a trustee of the board of Children's Hospital Los Angeles Division of Adolescent Medicine's Champion Fund. Ms. LaVaccare developed and managed the Young Women's Health Center at the Division of Adolescent Medicine of Children's Hospital Los Angeles from 2010 to 2013. She conducted research on LGBT young women and trained professionals across the nation on working with LGBT young women.

Sue is a past member of the Women's Health Data and Adolescent Health Subcommittees of the LA County Office of Women's Health Summit Leadership Task Force and also a past member of the California Health and Human Services Task Force for LGBT Health Services. She also served as the chair of the health care committee of the Lesbian Visibility Committee of the City of West Hollywood. From 2001 to 2006, Sue served as a mentor to female LGBT undergraduate and graduate students through the UCLA Student Psychological Services. During her tenure at the Division of Adolescent Medicine of the University of Minnesota, Ms. LaVaccare was the Co-Chair of the Twin Cities Women of Color LGBT Health Initiative and helped develop an American Cancer Society Breast Self Exam Brochure and Video for lesbians. From 1992 to 1995, Sue developed and managed primary care services and mental health services for lesbians and bisexual women at Howard Brown Health Center in Chicago.

Ms. LaVaccare is currently a health and wellness consultant based in Los Angeles. Ms. LaVaccare earned her B.S. in Psychology and M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Loyola University Chicago.

Mimi Lind, L.C.S.W.

Director, Mental Health Services, Venice Family Clinic



Ms. Lind is currently the Director of Mental Health and Domestic Violence Services at Venice Family Clinic, where she has worked for the past 18 years. Her department serves a largely Latino community and focuses on the psychosocial impact of stressors such as poverty, homelessness, and abuse/neglect. She specializes in working with victims and perpetrators of intimate partner violence and teaches at Loyola Marymount University. She is a public speaker on intimate partner violence and has worked in medical settings since 1988. Ms. Lind is a licensed clinical social worker.

Corri Planck, MA

Social Services Supervisor, City of West Hollywood



Corri Planck is the Social Services Supervisor for the City of West Hollywood, California. In this role, she oversees the City's contracts with area social services agencies, totaling \$4.2 million annually. She

played a lead role in the City's 2013 Community Study, which was honored by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) with its Core Values Award. She previously served as Deputy to West Hollywood City Councilmember Abbe Land, working with a diverse population on a variety of issues, ranging from education, the environment, health/wellness, civil rights, transportation, public safety and ending homelessness. Planck has worked in non-profit and government settings, where she has created and implemented strategic communication, marketing and community engagement campaigns. An award-winning journalist, Planck also has extensive media relations experience. She has worked in the political arena on legislative campaigns, local and state government relations and major political organizing events, with a particular focus on the LGBT community and child welfare. Planck obtained her BS in journalism from Ball State University and received her MA in education at the University of Redlands

Janet Pregler, M.D.

Director, Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Center

Professor of Clinical Medicine, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine



Janet P. Pregler has developed educational programs on women's health for the American College of Physicians, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health. She is a faculty member at the David Geffen School of Medicine, the director of the UCLA National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, and co-editor of the textbook "Women's Health: Principles and Clinical Practice." Under her leadership as Director, the Iris Cantor-UCLA Women's Health Center has developed educational programs for physicians, nurses, and community members on the prevention of coronary artery disease. With a group of women philanthropists she helped establish a pilot project fund, which gives grants to UCLA researchers to study women's health topics, including heart disease, stroke, cancer, the effect of stress on the immune system, interventions such as plant-derived substances and Yoga to improve women's health, and social issues that affect health, such as human trafficking. Dr. Pregler completed medical school at Northwestern University, and a residency at George Washington University.

Elaine Suraine

Reclaim Your Spirit Education



In 2006, Elaine Suranie was appointed by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to the California Commission on the Status of Women where she organized the first televised public hearings held in the State Capitol on The Status of Lesbians in California. In 2007 she worked with Department of Women and Minority Veterans Deputy Secretary Barbara Ward to help create the first California Women Veteran's Conference, now in its sixth year, and in 2009 she hosted the first California Women Veterans Summit with Senator Lois Wolk. As Chair of the CCSW in 2010, Suranie spearheaded bringing a state public hearing for women's issues to rural communities north of Sacramento for the first time in forty years, she initiated the first ever statewide survey on women veterans by the California State Library Research Bureau, and sought to add LGBT identifiers to all state census forms. Elaine Suranie works full time as a critical care respiratory therapist, is an active public speaker at Los Angeles colleges and high schools for GLIDE - Gays and Lesbians Initiating Dialogue for Equality, and teaches a seminar to teens about the biology of addiction and the power of habits entitled, *Sex, Drugs and Rock-N-Roll: The Chemistry of Life!* She also teaches Bedside Basics seminars on workplace burnout and ventilator management for nurses and her short story, "The Good Girl" is published in the book, "Women of Spirit," by Katherine Martin.

Sebastian Uijtdehaage, Ph.D.

Professor of Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine



Sebastian Uijtdehaage is the Director of Research and Evaluation of Center for Educational Development and Research at the David Geffen School of Medicine having previously served as an Assistant Professor. He is involved as program evaluator in several enrichment programs for disadvantaged college students, including the Summer Medical Dental Educational Program and the UCLA PRIME Program. He supports and oversees educational research conducted across the Medical School and is co-chair of the UCLA Medical Education Fellowship, an educational leadership program aimed at promoting educational scholarship among junior faculty. His research interests include selection of medical students, diversity in the physician workforce, and cultural competence in health care, and gay and lesbian health education. Dr. Uijtdehaage received his PhD in Psychophysiology at The Pennsylvania State University and continued his research as a Post-doctoral Fellow at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute studying the cardiovascular effects of stress and the electrophysiological underpinnings of depression and dementia.

Anne-Marie Williams, B.A.
Executive Director, California Lesbian Project



Anne-Marie Williams is the founder and Executive Director of the California Lesbian Project. In 2009, Williams was the L.A.C.E. Public Service awardee from the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center and past Director of the Jordan/Rustin Coalition, Anne-Marie Williams works tirelessly to advocate for LGBT people of color and to empower this doubly marginalized group through valuable workshops, panels and programs. Williams, who worked extensively on the No on 8 campaign, is now involved with the Courage Campaign on its Camp Courage training sessions on LGBT activism. Along with co-chairing the West Hollywood Lesbian Visibility Committee, serving as a board member for the June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives keeps Williams active in moving her community forward for all. Williams received her B.A. from California State University on Los Angeles.