

Women's Policy Institute-State
Class of 2020

Table of Contents

Community Health Team	2
Jazmine Johnson.....	2
Elizabeth (Beth) Kent.....	2
Alicia Olivarez	3
Hilda Ortiz.....	3
Isuri Sadadhy Ramos	4
Criminal Justice Reform Team	5
Chala Bonner	5
Kalyn Dean.....	5
Freddie Francis	6
Ginny Oshiro.....	6
Sharoia Taylor-Cornejo	7
Economic Security Team.....	8
Kelsey Lyles.....	8
Jacqueline Perez Valencia	8
Julia Root.....	9
Jonae Watts	9
Shirley Yee	10
Reproductive Health, Rights & Justice Team.....	11
Lauren Babb.....	11
Cindy Cruz	11
Sandra Duran-Lopez.....	12
Flor Hunt.....	12
Emily Loen	13
Trauma Services & Prevention Team.....	14
Anisa Ali.....	14
Ruvani Fonseka	14
Babe Kawaii-Bogue.....	15
Cindy Liou.....	15
Alex Madsen	16

Community Health Team



Jazmine Johnson

Land Use and Health Program Associate

@itsjazz_man

[Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles](#)

she/her

Jazmine Johnson was born and raised in Perris, CA, and currently serves as the Land Use and Health Program Associate for Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA). In this role, she coordinates workshops involving health professionals, field experts, and community advocates while conducting research on issues of industrial land use and health in South Central Los Angeles. Committed to fighting for social justice and racial equality, Jazmine joined PSR-LA with experience working for the City of Chicago and organizing on the Southside. In this capacity, she was instrumental in engaging with residents and community based organizations to gauge community needs and increase civic engagement. She has also conducted research in the Dominican Republic on health and environmental issues and was involved in social justice efforts through organizations on her college campus. Jazmine holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences with a Specialization in Neuroscience from the University of Chicago.



Beth Kent

Policy & Legal Fellow

@LANLT

[Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust](#)

she/her

Beth Kent is the Policy and Legal Fellow at the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (Neighborhood Land Trust), a nonprofit organization that promotes justice and health by creating parks and community gardens in low-income communities of color. Beth's work focuses on advocating for equity in environmental and open space policies at the city, county, and state levels and increasing access to healthy green spaces, while preventing displacement of communities. Before working at the Neighborhood Land Trust, she was a law clerk at the Natural Resources Defense Council, Earthjustice, and the California Office of the Attorney General. Beth received her J.D. from UCLA School of Law with a specialization in Public Interest Law and Policy and her B.S. with honors from U.C. Berkeley. She is a member of the State Bar of California and Phi Beta Kappa.



Alicia Olivarez

Policy Director

@powercanow @aliciaolivarez

[Power California](#)

she/her

Alicia is a daughter, sister, xicana and organizer in Fresno, CA. Her early experiences growing up poor in a small farm working town have served as the main motivation to create leadership pathways and opportunities for young people to step into their power across the Central Valley. Alicia spent the last five years working to support youth organizing and development organizations in the Central Valley and co-founding one, 99Rootz, in her hometown. In her role with Power California, she has been working to prioritize policy change in communities like the Central Valley, that struggle with rampant pesticide use, poor air quality, dirty water, and poor housing.



Hilda Ortiz

Policy Coordinator

[Latino Health Access](#)

she/her

Hilda Ortiz is currently the Policy Coordinator for Latino Health Access in Santa Ana, CA where she leads the organization's policy agenda to improve the social determinants of health. While at LHA, Hilda has led voter engagement strategies to increase Latinx voter turnout, collaborated with various sectors in establishing a Wellness Corridor in Santa Ana, and coordinated a nation-wide capacity building program for community organizations in implementing a promotor model for systems and environmental changes. Prior to working at LHA, she volunteered in programs providing mentorship and guidance to Latinx students pursuing higher education. Hilda's passion for making sustainable and impactful changes in the most vulnerable communities stems from growing up in an immigrant family that was forced to normalize abuse and trauma while trying to thrive in a system that only perpetuated the situation. Hilda received her Bachelor of Science in Public Health Science from UC Irvine in 2012.



Isuri Sadadhy Ramos

Policy Analyst

[The Kennedy Commission](#)

she/her/they/them

Isuri Sadadhy Ramos is the daughter of Mexican immigrants from Acapulco and Puebla. Santa Ana, CA became their home upon arriving to the United States, and a place filled with culture and resilience. She attended Santa Ana public schools and the University of California, San Diego where she joined Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Incorporated and earned a B.A. in International Studies - Political Science and Urban Studies Planning. Isuri returned to Santa Ana and began working for The Kennedy Commission as a Community Organizer and is now their Policy Analyst. Isuri is also the Chairwoman of the City of Santa Ana's Community Redevelopment and Housing Commission, a Santa Ana Building Healthy Communities Board Committee member, a Board Member for Chispa, and is serving her second term as a 69th Assembly District Delegate for the California Democratic Party. In her free time Isuri enjoys hiking and traveling.

Criminal Justice Reform Team



Chala Bonner

Civic Engagement and Political Education Organizer

@SafeReturnProj1

[Safe Return Project](#)

she/her

Chala Bonner is a native of Richmond, CA. She is the Civic Engagement and Political Education Organizer at the Safe Return Project. She has a passion for helping others in her community and leveling the playing field for formerly incarcerated black people and people of color. Her goal is to bring equity in the community by overcoming barriers, challenges, and bring healing to those who have had traumatic experiences with the criminal

justice system. Chala is currently leading the DA Accountability Table in Contra Costa County. She is influencing policy changes at the local level. She was also appointed to the Racial Justice Oversight Body by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and she is co-leading the Racial Justice Coalition. She partnered with Californians for Safety and Justice in an effort to get AB 1076 and AB 1331 passed. Her motto: "Don't let your past dictate your future."



Kalyn Dean

Program Associate

@KalynDean

[Policy Link](#)

she/her

Kalyn Dean has managed the legislative priorities for the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color at PolicyLink since January 2019, working with partners, coalitions and legislators to enact policies that advance racial, gender

and economic justice. Prior to joining PolicyLink, she managed the implementation and execution of the statewide Building Trust Through Reform Initiative for PICO California for two years, where she provided programmatic support, training and technical assistance to community organizers, advocates, clergy and law enforcement in 10 cities. She is a member of the Procedural Justice Committee at the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and has provided subject matter expertise for the creation of several POST curriculums, including de-escalation. She received a B.S. in Criminal Justice from John

Jay College of Criminal Justice. In 2017, she studied peacemaking and conflict resolution in Palestine and Israel and is deeply committed to justice and equity.



Freddie Francis
Communications Consultant
Transgender Advocacy Group (TAG)
they/them

Freddie Francis is a white genderqueer person determined to use their privilege and power to uproot white supremacy and cisheteropatriarchy. Freddie got involved with supporting incarcerated LGBTQ community members in 2014 through the Black and Pink penpal program. Freddie works with the Transgender Advocacy Group (TAG), a coalition of organizations and individuals seeking to support, advocate for, and organize alongside our transgender community behind bars with the long-term vision of abolishing all carceral systems. Currently, Freddie works on a coalition supporting the Trans RAD Act (SB 132), which addresses housing for incarcerated trans folks, as well a TAG working group to build solidarity amongst currently incarcerated LGBTQ community members. Freddie also does communications and press work for Medina Orthwein LLP, a queer-owned law firm in the Bay Area that demands reparations for those most impacted by racialized and gendered discrimination and violence. Freddie holds a BS in Communications concentrated in Public Relations from Boston University.



Ginny Oshiro
Chief of Staff
[Project Rebound at California State University, Fullerton](#)
she/her

Ginny Oshiro is the Chief of Staff in the Project Rebound office at California State University, Fullerton. Also a current Project Rebound scholar, Ginny is a senior, criminal justice major and Asian American studies minor graduating in spring 2020. Ginny is passionate about research that focuses on the intersection of public policy and the criminal justice system and aims to bridge the gap between research and the implementation of policy. During her time at California State University, Fullerton she has been the recipient of the John Irwin Memorial Scholarship, the William G. Pollock scholarship, the Filipino American Law Enforcement Officers Scholarship, the 2018 Project Rebound Community Service and Engagement Award, and the 2019 Project Rebound Outstanding Leadership Award. Ginny is the Vice- Chair/Treasurer of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Inter-Club Council, and the President of the Rebound

Scholars student organization, for which she received the 2019 university-wide award for Student Organization President of the Year.



Sharoia Taylor-Cornejo

Operations Manager

[W. Haywood Burns Institute](#)

she/her

Sharoia Taylor-Cornejo is an education and legal advocate who has dedicated her time and early career to uncoupling injustice from institutional and community spaces. Sharoia has taken a multi-tiered approach to address the negative impact of the criminal justice system and has served in many roles in her pursuit for criminal justice reform: as a teacher, as a speaker at the United Nations during the Commission on the Status of Women session and within the criminal justice system as a legal advocate. She earned her Juris Doctorate

from the University of San Francisco School of Law and her M.A. in Ethnic Studies with an emphasis in Urban Education from San Francisco State University. Sharoia currently works at the W. Haywood Burns Institute, which is an organization that is committed to the pursuit of fighting racial and ethnic disparities within the criminal justice system.

Economic Security Team



Kelsey Lyles

Health Equity Program Manager
[The Greenlining Institute](#)
she/her

Kelsey Lyles is a Health Equity Program Manager at The Greenlining Institute, leading the Health Equity team's workforce equity and inclusion advocacy efforts. Growing up in Chicago, she felt a strong commitment to social justice at a young age. Kelsey has extensive experience in public policy, cross sector collaboration, and stakeholder engagement strategies. Prior to Greenlining, Kelsey was an Equity Specialist at the California Strategic Growth Council and managed a racial justice capacity building program for California State employees, with participation from 19 departments and agencies. Kelsey was also a member of the California Health in All Policies staff team, where she led multi-sector State government work groups, developed equity focused work plans, provided health equity trainings, and promoted a culture shift towards equity and inclusion in State Government. Kelsey received her bachelor's degree in Sociology and Community Development from Howard University.



Jacqueline Perez Valencia

Volunteer & Code as a Second Language Coordinator
[Institute of Popular Education of Southern California \(IDEPSCA\)](#)
[Hispanic Heritage Foundation](#)
she/her

Jacqueline Perez Valencia is a first-generation college graduate committed to fighting for the dignity and respect of underrepresented communities. She received her B.S. in Sociology and minor in Business Administration from the University of La Verne, where she was awarded the Campus Compact 2014 Newman Civic Fellow Award due to her community and civic engagement on campus and in the surrounding areas. Currently, Jacqueline is the Code as a Second Language Coordinator for Hispanic Heritage Foundation, where she coordinates programs that introduce young Latina/o students to code and see the technology field as a plausible career. Before joining Hispanic Heritage Foundation, she worked at the Institute of Popular Education of Southern California (IDEPSCA) as an outreach coordinator to support day laborers and household workers to obtain jobs that provided safe working conditions and a fair wage. Her diverse experience includes working in campaigns for local/state candidates, as an immigrant rights advocate, and coordinator/administrator for non-profits.



Julia Root

Senior Workforce Policy Associate

@juliaroot

[Center for Employment Opportunities](#)

she/her

Julia Root is the Senior Workforce Policy Associate for California with the Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO), a nonprofit social enterprise that provides transitional jobs, tailored vocational services and training to people returning home from incarceration. Julia works across CEO's eight California offices to advocate for increased state and local investment in reentry employment services and for removing unnecessary and overly punitive barriers to employment for people with a criminal conviction. In this role, Julia builds relationships with state and local policymakers and criminal justice and workforce advocates with the goal of expanding reentry employment programs that help people find jobs and build a long-term attachment to the workforce. Previously, Julia was a Research Fellow at The Governance Lab, an action research institute focused on using data and technology to improve the policymaking process and strengthen the ability of public institutions to make better decisions and solve public problems. Julia has an MPA from NYU and a BA from UCSD.



Jonae Watts

Sr. Employment Specialist

[People Assisting the Homeless \(PATH\)](#)

she/her

Jonae Watts works at PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) as the Senior Employment Specialist and travels throughout Los Angeles City and County collaborating with various Fortune 500 companies, small businesses, City and County America's Job Centers, community colleges, and government agencies to assist homeless families in obtaining sustainable employment. She is a motivating advocate, with a ton passion, and acts as a voice of those experiencing homelessness while sharing her platform "fusing homelessness with career development which leads to a sustainable income". Ms. Watts holds professional certifications including: Global Career Development Facility (National Career Development Association); Individual Placement Support Professional (Dartmouth Institute); LA Youth at Work Facilitator (Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce); Certified Career Services Provider (NCDA), and the Workforce Development Professional certification. In addition, she has received several awards for her tireless commitment to working with homeless families.



Shirley Yee

Director of Youth Engagement

@MyPathUS

[MyPath](#)

she/her

Shirley Yee has been working for over two decades at the intersections of youth development, and social and economic justice in the Bay Area. She has worked with Oakland youth, organizing around issues of educational equity, drug/alcohol and mental health awareness, and safer school climate for LGBTQQI students. Shirley has also coordinated violence prevention and intervention services for justice involved and affiliated youth. She worked closely with Oakland Unified School District for eleven years in the Alternative Education Office. She earned her B.A. from the University of Michigan with majors in Women's Studies and Comparative Literature. Shirley is currently the Director of Youth Engagement at MyPath, a San Francisco based national non-profit. There she works with her team to advance key policy and systems-level changes to improve economic opportunities and financial pathways for youth from low wealth communities, and communities of color.

Reproductive Health, Rights & Justice Team



Lauren Babb

Public Affairs Director

[Planned Parenthood Northern California](#)

she/her

Lauren is a Contra Costa community leader and has spent the last nine years on a series of federal, state and local campaigns. As Public Affairs Director for Planned Parenthood Northern California, Lauren works to protect and ensure reproductive justice for all patients. She is a fierce advocate for women's equality and has worked to defend the rights of several labor groups across the country. In 2016 she led an AFL-CIO labor-run campaigns in support of Hillary Clinton in Iowa, Florida, and Nevada. Lauren is a graduate of American University, the George Washington University School of Political Management and Emerge California. Lauren is an appointed commissioner of the Contra Costa Commission for Women, the Economic Opportunity Council and Contra Costa 2020 Census Complete Count Committee. She is also a board member for Girls Leadership, Contra Costa Young Dems, Contra Costa NOW, and Ensuring Opportunity.



Cindy Cruz

Director of Education

[Planned Parenthood California Central Coast](#)

she/her

Cindy Cruz is a passionate advocate for reproductive justice, racial justice and LGBTQ rights. Determined to help reduce inequities and empower communities through education and policy change, she began her career with Planned Parenthood California Central Coast (PPCCC) in 2016 and currently serves as the Director of Education. As director of the education department, Cruz oversees the delivery, implementation and evaluation of the organization's sex education programming and works closely with colleagues and community partners to lobby and inform policy that supports access to comprehensive sex education and health care services. Prior to joining PPCCC, she worked as a peer mentor for CAMINO, a grant program focused on providing pathways to health careers for first generation, low-income and Hispanic students. Cruz is a Certified Health Education Specialist and received a BS in Public Health Education, and a Master of Public Health from California State University, Northridge.



Sandra Duran-Lopez

Public Affairs and Communications Manager

@puebloqueer

[Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest](#)

she/her

Sandra Duran is a reproductive justice advocate, Mexican immigrant, and digital organizer. She graduated from the University of California, San Diego in 2014 with a B.A. in Communications and a minor in Sociology. Sandra currently works at Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest as a Public Affairs and Communications Manager, where she works to promote access to reproductive health, justice, and comprehensive sexual health education. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ), a state-wide organization committed to honoring the experiences of Latinas/xs through community education, policy advocacy, and community-informed research. Sandra also serves as the Chair of the San Diego Coalition for Reproductive Justice and has proudly served her community through work with various non-profits in the San Diego, Los Angeles, and Tijuana region. She is passionate about equitable access to quality healthcare, education and the arts.



Flor Hunt

Executive Director

@TEACHProgram (twitter)

[TEACH \(Training in Early Abortion for Comprehensive Healthcare\)](#)

she/her

Flor Hunt, MPA serves as Executive Director of the TEACH Program. Flor brings 10+ years of leadership experience in sexual and reproductive health and rights, international women's rights and advocacy. She has extensive experience in project management and implementation, as well as expertise supporting organizations in strategy development, coalition building and capacity building. Flor has worked with a variety of international NGOs and think tanks including the Global Fund for Women in San Francisco. Most recently she was a Senior Advocacy Officer at the International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region, where she spent close to a decade leading regional advocacy and social accountability efforts to advance sexual and reproductive rights. Flor holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Development Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master of International and Public Affairs from the Woodrow

Wilson School at Princeton University. She was born in Peru and raised in California, is bilingual in English and Spanish, fluent in Portuguese and speaks French.



Emily Loen

Director of Campaigns

@AbortnHackathon

[Abortion Access Hackathon](#)

she/her

Emily Loen is an innovative creator with a focus on reproductive justice. With fellow ciswomen of color, she launched Abortion Access Hackathon. AAH puts on weekend long events that partner professionals in tech with under resourced abortion providers. Teams collaborate over the weekend to build tools that expand abortion access. Tools include Abortion Policy API, ExposeFakeClinics.com, and 20+ tools for clinics, funds and advocacy groups state and nationwide, impacting millions of people of reproductive age annually. Emily advocates for reproductive justice policies that protect the dignity and autonomy of all people.

Trauma Services & Prevention Team



Anisa Ali

Program Specialist

@AnisaJAli

[Futures Without Violence](#)

she/her

Anisa Ali joined Futures Without Violence in 2014, and develops educational materials for the National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence and provides training and technical assistance on state and national programs of health care and domestic violence partnerships. Prior to her work at FUTURES, Anisa worked and interned for women's rights organizations, served as an AmeriCorps volunteer in Madison, WI, and taught English as a Fulbright scholar in Turkey. Anisa earned her MA in Gender and Women's Studies from the University of Wisconsin--Madison and her undergraduate degrees in International Studies and Spanish from Virginia Tech.



Ruvani Fonseka

Pre-Doctoral fellow

[Center on Gender Equity and Health, University of California San Diego](#)

she/her

Ruvani Fonseka is a researcher and advocate with over ten years of experience working to end gender-based violence. In the San Francisco Bay Area, Ruvani worked with Narika, a local nonprofit supporting South Asian immigrant survivors of domestic violence, and with Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence (API-GBV) to develop a national directory of domestic violence agencies with culturally-specific programs for API survivors. Currently, Ruvani is a predoctoral fellow at the Center on Gender Equity and Health at University of California, San Diego, where she supports two of the Center's projects: 1) Addressing Reproductive Coercion in Health Settings (ARCHES) in San Diego and 2) helping Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and California Department of Public Health to evaluate statewide rape prevention education programs. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Harvard University and Master of Public Health and Master of Social Welfare degrees from University of California, Berkeley.



Babe Kawaii-Bogue

Trauma/Grief and Loss Counselor

[Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc. \(RAMS, Inc.\)](#)

she/her/they/them

Babe Kawaii-Bogue is a Multiracial, queer, third generation San Franciscan, with African American roots from Louisiana and Mississippi, Native Hawaiian roots from the Island of Oahu, and European roots from the UK, by way of Canada. Babe graduated from public schools in the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) and completed her undergraduate education in psychology from UC Berkeley and an MA in clinical psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University. Babe then returned home to serve her community of origin as the only Trauma, Grief and Loss Counselor for 18 SFUSD high schools with Richmond Area Multi-Services. Babe currently specializes in trauma prevention and services and culturally appropriate community mental health services for African American youth and other youth of color in the San Francisco Bay Area. Babe is passionate about policy and advocacy work, and hopes to influence policies that impact the mental health of marginalized communities.



Cindy Liou

State Policy Director

@supportkind

[Kids in Need of Defense \(KIND\)](#)

she/her

The daughter of Chinese-Taiwanese immigrants, Cindy Liou works to advance the rights of immigrant communities and the anti-violence movement. Cindy first joined Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) in 2016 as the Deputy Director of Legal Services, and became KIND's first State Policy Director in 2019. Previously, she was the Director of the Human Trafficking Project at Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, where she co-counseled several civil litigation cases on behalf of human trafficking survivors, and provided direct legal representation in immigration, family, and victims' rights law for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder and child abuse, and other forms of discrimination. Cindy is the author of several articles and manuals. She has provided consulting and training on topics ranging from domestic violence lethality to effective collaboration between legal services, social services, and law enforcement. Cindy is a graduate from Stanford Law School and the University of Washington.



Alex Madsen

Division Manager

[The Alliance to End Abuse - Contra Costa County](#)

she/her

Alex is currently the Division Manager for the Alliance to End Abuse. Born and raised in the Bay Area, she joined The Alliance in 2014 as Project Coordinator for the Services for Victims of Human Trafficking Project where she trained, provided expertise, and helped build capacity for organizations that work with victims of human trafficking. Currently she oversees all of The Alliance's projects and programs, including the Contra Costa County Human Trafficking Task Force, the Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), the Violence Prevention Blueprint and the Improving Criminal Justice Response to Victims of Interpersonal Violence project. She has a Master's Degree in International Human Rights with a concentration in human trafficking from the University of Denver.