



School-Based Health Initiative

MEET THE SPEAKERS

School-Based Health Sharing Summit | August 10, 2023



Tammy Alexander, MEd

I have worked in the school-based health care field at the state and national level since 1993 and joined the School-Based Health Alliance in 2016. My current work at SBHA includes state relations, policy, consulting, and oral health, and of course, assorted duties as assigned! When I am working with communities deep into planning and implementing a school-based health center, I am in my happy place.

I have my undergraduate degree from Oregon State, and I completed my Masters in Education from the University of Virginia in 1979. I work remotely for SBHA from my home in Oregon. When I am not working, you can find me organizing camping trips with my husband and dog and numerous family and friends, trying to see all the natural wonders of our country.

Gretchen Boyer

Gretchen Boyer is the Executive Director of Land to Hand Montana, a non-profit whose mission is to build a strong community food system that fosters socially just ways of accessing food. She is passionate about supporting local farmers' efforts to feed all community members regardless of income. She believes that in a healthy community we are all food secure. Gretchen has been on the board of Land to Hand since 2004 and became its first Executive Director in 2017. She lives in Whitefish with her teenage son and husband, where they spend most of their time outdoors.

Katelin Conway, MBA, MPH

Katelin Conway provides programmatic support, guidance, and technical assistance to our entire portfolio, focusing on our American Indian Health priority area. Katelin convenes and facilitates collaboration to promote sharing and learning among Montana communities. She advances regional efforts in patient, family, and tribal engagement with the continued vision of improved health and health outcomes across the region. Before joining our team in 2022, Katelin served as program director, patient family engagement senior director, and quality improvement specialist at Mountain-Pacific Quality Health. She received her undergraduate degree from Arizona State University and graduate degrees in business administration and public health from the University of Montana. Katelin is the Montana American Indian Women's Health Coalition Vice President and was awarded New Member of The Year in 2018. She is a member of the Blackfeet Tribe and lives with her husband and two daughters on their family ranch on the Blackfeet Reservation.

Brittany Coburn, NP-C

Brittany Coburn is a family nurse practitioner, a primary care provider and the director of Logan Health's School Based Health Center. Additionally, Brittany has been an assistant professor with the College of Nursing at MSU-Kalispell for over 13 years where she helps guide aspiring nurses to successful careers. She joined the Logan Health family in October of 2010 at Logan Health Whitefish. Brittany practices full spectrum family medical care with a focus on wellness and prevention.

Liz Davies, LCSW

Liz Davies provides programming support and technical assistance to our Integrated Behavioral Health initiative grantees and other partners. Before joining our team in early 2021, she spent nearly 10 years at Community Medical Center in Missoula overseeing behavioral health services, home and community-based services, and social work services in a brain injury rehab program. Liz grew up in Vero Beach, Florida, but has called Montana home since 2004. She received her undergraduate degree from Harvard College and her graduate degree in social work from the University of Montana. Liz currently serves as the Board President for the Poverello Center. She lives in Missoula with her husband and two daughters.

Lindsay DeGroot, LCPC

Lindsay DeGroot is a licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC) in Montana, a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP), Certified Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapist (C-EFP), a Certified Babywearing Educator (CBE), and the founder of the Wild Rose Family Center and the Madison Valley Adventure Academy. She has experience working as a school counselor in the public school system, as a child and family therapist in a Portland community mental health clinic, and providing services to a variety of clients in the private practice setting. She has additional training in the neurobiology of Trauma, child and adolescent therapy, Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders, Collaborative Problem Solving, Mindfulness techniques, Interpersonal Neurobiology, Attachment Theory, Hakomi Therapy, Art Therapy, Yoga Calm®, and the Love and Logic® family education program. She is a clinical supervisor for pre-licensed mental health counselors, a faculty instructor at Montana State University, and she is currently working towards a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision. As an experienced and dynamic public speaker, Lindsay DeGroot offers numerous local and national presentations as a keynote speaker, general session, or guest lecturer. She engages audiences with evidence-based information, real-life examples, heartfelt authenticity, and transparency. As a faculty instructor at Montana State University in the Health and Human Development Department, she has taught courses in Human Sexuality, Family and Relationships, Group Therapy, Psychopharmacology, and the Ethic of Care. She's developed great skills in addressing sensitive topics while maintaining engagement with an audience and providing a warm and inviting safe space for participants to integrate new information.

Ann Galloway, PhD, FNP-C

Dr. Ann Galloway has over 40 years of experience in nursing including 16 years of experience as a certified family nurse practitioner (FNP-C). She holds a BSN in nursing from the University of Oklahoma, a master's degree in dual tracks of nurse education and family nurse practitioner from Clemson University, a post-master's certificate adult-geriatric acute care nurse practitioner (AGACNP) from Colorado State University-Pueblo, and a PhD in nursing education from the University of Northern Colorado. She is an associate clinical professor of nursing at Montana State University Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing.

Her work as a family nurse practitioner has focused on school-based health centers and rural primary care. She helped develop two school-based centers in Rifle and Parachute, Colorado and was the sole provider at the clinics. She served for four years as a member of the School-Based Health Centers Quality Improvement and Standards Advisory Committee of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. She is currently assisting the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Health Department develop and implement school-based health centers at the Lame Deer Head Start, Lame Deer Elementary School, Lame Deer Middle and High School, and the Northern Cheyenne Tribal School. Dr. Galloway will also provide primary health care services at the centers with other healthcare providers.

Kayla Grinsell

Peva'eseve! (Good Day; Northern Cheyenne) My name is Kayla Grinsell enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. I am a proud mother of 4 and wife of 7 years. In 2021 I obtained my Bachelors of Sciences in Accounting with the University of Montana in Missoula, MT, and am currently pursuing my graduate education with the same University. In 2022 I began my employment with the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Health Department as the Executive Director. My vision has always been to obtain my college education and return back home to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation with the intention of helping my people and the communities where I was raised.

Kelsey Gummer, MHA

Kelsey Gummer directs and leads the programming work in the School-Based Initiative. She works with the team to provide funding, program support, strategic guidance, and technical assistance to our grantees in the initiative. Kelsey also works across our initiatives and provides support and leadership to the programming team. Before joining our team in 2020, Kelsey served as the chief strategic officer at Alluvion Health, a federally qualified health center in Great Falls. She received her undergraduate degree in community health from Montana State University and her graduate degree in healthcare administration from Ohio University. Kelsey was born and raised in Great Falls. She and her family now call Bozeman home.

Laura S. Larsson, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN

Laura S. Larsson, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN Kathleen Chafey Endowed Nursing Professor in the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing at Montana State University, is a nurse, clinical scholar, and educator with extensive experience operating mobile clinics with tribal communities across Montana. She first partnered with the Northern Cheyenne Nation's Head Start program in 2018, bringing together dozens of undergraduate nursing students, dental hygienists, advanced practice registered nurse practitioners, and a developmental psychologist to deliver health assessments to 3-5-year-olds. This One Community in Health project has expanded to include Blackfeet, Crow, Fort Peck and Flathead Nations and has served more than a thousand preschoolers. To read more visit: <https://www.montana.edu/news/mountainsandminds/22423/a-trusted-partner> Dr. Larsson is also Director of the Caring for Our Own Program, a supplemental student support program for Native American and Alaska Native students pursuing their nursing degree at MSU, whose goal is to build a strong pool of AI/AN nurses who are prepared for practice, management, and leadership in Indian Country. Dr. Larsson was recently inducted into the American Academy of Nursing for her policy work expanding access to oral health care in rural and remote areas.

Megan Nerdig, RN, BSN

Megan Nerdig RN,BSN is currently working as a School Based Clinic RN with Greater Valley Health Center. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Nursing with over 20 years of nursing experience in a variety of settings. Her areas of work experience include Pediatric Oncology, Home Hospice, NICU, and Outpatient pediatrics. She was recently involved in piloting an oral health education program in first grade classrooms in Kalispell, MT. She has volunteered at youth camps and as a coach for Girls on the Run. She is passionate about physical and mental health in children and teens.

Jill Pate, RN

Jill Pate, RN coordinates the Greater Valley Health Center school-based clinics in Evergreen and Kalispell school districts. She has studied at University of California, Santa Barbara and Cambridge University, England. She holds degrees in Nursing, Sociology and a certificate in integrated behavioral health and primary care from the University of Michigan School of Social Work. Spending time as a school nurse was instrumental to her understanding the complex needs of students in Montana. Jill's current innovation projects are centered on oral health and food security. Jill has worked in maternal-child health for most of her career, teaching at Flathead Valley Community College school of nursing, working in the NICU and outpatient pediatrics in Kalispell, teaching childbirth education and working in Labor and Delivery and Postpartum in both Whitefish and Kalispell. She is most proud of her work with camps for children with medical needs. Jill has directed camps for children with cancer and burn injuries and developed an adaptive rock-climbing program for a wheelchair sports camp. She is married to Paralympic gold medalist Steve Pate and the proud mother of two MSU Bozeman students and a junior at Glacier High School.