

Presenters

Topical Webinar 3 – Social Drivers of Behavioral Health



Parinda Khatri, PhD

Chief Clinical Officer (CCO) at Cherokee Health Systems (CHS)

Dr. Khatri is the CCO of Cherokee Health Systems, a Federally Qualified Health Center and Community Mental Health Center. Dr. Khatri provides oversight and guidance on clinical quality, program development and management, workforce development, clinical research, and clinical operations for blended primary care and behavioral health services within the organization. She is also the principal investigator of several research and education programs at CHS, including the NIH-funded All of US Research Program and Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities. Dr. Khatri is also involved in integrated

healthcare policy and practice issues at the national level. She is the former President and Board Member of the Collaborative Family Healthcare Association (CFHA) and was appointed to the HRSA Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary and Community-Based Linkages by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.



Courtney Pladsen, DNP, FNP-BC, RN

Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement

Dr. Courtney Pladsen is NHCHC's Director of Clinical and Quality Improvement. Dr. Pladsen leads initiatives to improve the delivery of primary care, substance use treatment, and mental health care nationally. She directs training and quality improvement initiatives and contributes to research and policy recommendations on emerging clinical issues affecting people experiencing homelessness. Courtney has worked in the healthcare safety net for over fifteen years in emergency departments and federally qualified health centers. Witnessing social barriers to care cause poor health outcomes fuels her fight to end homelessness.

Homelessness is an intersectional issue. Survivors of domestic violence, people experiencing poverty, LGBTQ+ individuals, people of color, and people who use drugs all disproportionately experiencing homelessness.

Having experienced poverty and homelessness in her childhood, this work is also personal for Courtney. She wants to create more just and equitable systems that will not only end homelessness but also prevent it.



Maria Lemus

Executive Director at Vision Y Compromiso

Maria is founding Executive Director of Visión Y Compromiso, a 501 C (3) non-profit organization since 2000. Visión y Compromiso and its Promotora and Community Health Worker Network is committed to supporting Promotoras and Community Health Workers (P/CHW) towards achieving healthy and dignified lives for Latinos who endure disproportionate rates of health disparities. It advances this by providing leadership, capacity building and advocacy for over 4000 Promotores and Community Health Workers associated with clinics, hospitals, community-based organizations in rural and urban communities.