

Webinar & Discussion Date: October 19, 2021

## Does Civic Participation Influence Health?

### PRESENTER BIOSKETCHES



#### **Dawn Hunter**

##### **Director, Southeastern Region Network for Public Health Law**

Dawn Hunter is Director of the Southeastern Region of the Network for Public Health Law. An experienced legislative analyst and state health department policymaker, Dawn leads work to examine legislation impacting health and racial equity, and to identify and implement strategies to build the capacity of public health agencies and organizations to effectively use law and policy to improve health outcomes. Dawn also conducts

training on equity in public health messaging through the Becoming Better Messengers initiative and leads an ongoing assessment of declarations of racism as a public health crisis and related efforts to address health inequities. She is particularly interested in the development of racial equity action plans and implementation strategies at the state and local levels. Dawn also focuses on strategies to improve health outcomes through civic engagement. Prior to joining the Network, Dawn served in a number of roles focused on public health, policy, and health equity, including serving as Deputy Cabinet Secretary at the New Mexico Department of Health, where some of her core responsibilities included managing the Department's legislative agenda and policy activities as well as strategic planning, performance management, and public health accreditation.

Dawn started her career in child protective services in Hillsborough County, Florida. She later transitioned into research and development as a microbiologist at the University of South Florida, Center for Biological Defense, with a focus on rapid detection methods for food and waterborne pathogens. Dawn is Certified in Public Health by the National Board of Public Health Examiners. She received her A.B. in English Literature from Princeton University, her B.S. in Microbiology and her M.P.H. in Global Communicable Disease from the University of South Florida, and her J.D. from Stetson University College of Law.

## Kim Irwin

### Executive Director, Health by Design

### Administrator, Indiana Public Health Association

Kim Irwin has served as the Executive Director of Health by Design since 2008. Health by Design is a coalition working at the intersection of the built environment and public health, collaborating across sectors and disciplines to ensure Indiana communities have neighborhoods, public spaces and transportation infrastructure that promote active living for all. Since January 2019, Health by Design has also provided management services to the Indiana Public Health Association, which builds capacity among public health professionals and partners to achieve health equity and well-being for all across the state of Indiana. Ms. Irwin guides the strategic direction, partnership development and programmatic, operational, and financial management of both organizations. She has a Master of Public Health from the Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) Department of Public Health and an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University. Her prior work experience includes health promotion activities and program and administrative management for the American Lung Association, the IUSM and in senior services. She was recently named to the Governor's Public Health Commission, and she volunteers with the League of Women Voters of Indianapolis.

