

Webinar Date: January 17, 2023

Racial healing for health PRESENTER BIOSKETCHES



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Dr. Nia Aitaoto is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, John A. Burns School of Medicine and at the University of Utah, College of Health. She also serves in leader

roles as Interim Director of the national Association of Pasifika Organizations and lead Community Researchers with the Pacific Islander Center of Primary Care Excellence. Dr. Aitaoto has a PhD in community and behavioral health from the University of Iowa, MPH in community health development, and MS in epidemiology, both from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is a principal investigator of several research studies in Hawai'i and the Pacific, and has over 20 years of experience in the health and education field focusing on cancer, diabetes, cultural competency, physical activity, nutrition, medication adherence, and tobacco related initiatives. Dr. Aitaoto also specializes in providing technical assistance, data assessment, and evaluation support to ministries of health, community health centers, and non-profit organizations in Hawai'i, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Republic of Belau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Tony Watkins, MAA

Program Director for Homeless Assistance, New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness

Tony Watkins is a 58-year old white man who moved from a border town of the Puallup Nation in the state of Washington to a border town of the Navajo Nation when he was eleven years old. He is a founding member of *Families United for Education* (FUE), a de-centralized, self-organized network in Albuquerque, New Mexico that researched, wrote, and successfully advocated



County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Building a Culture of Health, County by County

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for a family engagement policy in Albuquerque Public Schools (APS). The policy is a reflection of the experiences of over 400 families and calls for equity and utilizing the histories and cultures of families as a foundation for education. In addition to the policy passing the APS board in 2012, FUE's accomplishments include convening APS School Board Candidate Forums, organizing multiple *Undoing Racism and Community Organizing* workshops with the Anti-Racism Training Center of the Southwest (ARTI) and the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond for school board and community members, and advocating for ethnic studies in Albuquerque Public Schools.

Tony has been through the *Undoing Racism and Community Organizing* workshop of the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond many times and has been a trainer/organizer with the Institute since 2018. After nearly 20 years working in Albuquerque Public Schools at a variety of coordinator-level positions, in February 2022 Tony joined the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness as the Program Director for Homeless Assistance.