



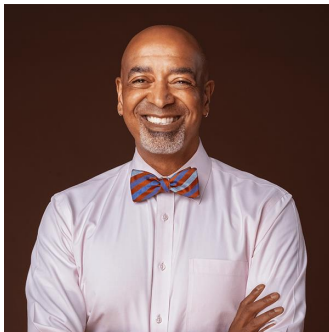
Conference & Meeting Materials  
AGENDA

- 9:00 am**     **Welcome**
- 9:10 am**     **Beyond Words: Health Equity in Action**  
Oami Amarasingham, MPHA Deputy Director  
Craig Andrade, MPHA Board Member, Associate Dean of Practice &  
Director of the Activist Lab, Boston University School of Public Health
- 9:50 am**     **In Conversation with Senator Elect Liz Miranda**  
(pre-recorded video)
- 10:10 am**    **Keynote: Driving Equity through Public Health Data**  
Lauren Smith, MD, MPH  
Chief Health Equity and Strategy Officer, CDC Foundation
- 10:50 am**    **10-minute Break**
- 11:00 am**    **Unveiling MPHA's 2023-2024 Policy Agenda**  
MPHA Staff: Alexis Walls, Jenezka Roman, Mahal Alvarez-Backus  
MPHA Policy Council Members:  
Jonathan Guzman, Groundwork Lawrence  
Sofia Owen, Alternatives for Community and Environment  
Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- 12:10 pm**    **Conference ends, transition to MPHA Annual Meeting (see page 5)**

## Speaker Bios



**Liz Miranda** is the State Representative of the 5th Suffolk and has recently won election as the State Senator from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Suffolk. She is a community organizer, former youth worker, and entrepreneur who ran for office in 2018 to center those who have been left out of the conversation. Propelled to act after gun violence took the life of her brother, Representative Miranda has been a tireless fighter for violence prevention funding. She has passed legislation to provide enforceable tools to protect the life and health of environmental justice communities, improve maternal health outcomes of Black women and birthing people, extend postpartum health insurance coverage, end solitary confinement in state prisons, and ensure vaccine equity in the communities most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the daughter of West African immigrants, Representative Miranda has been a tireless advocate for immigrant justice and has fought for the Safe Communities Act and the Work and Family Mobility Act.



**Craig Andrade** is Associate Dean of Practice and Director of the Activist Lab at Boston University's School of Public Health (SPH) where he serves to catalyze and encourage SPH's public health practice portfolio locally and globally among all members of the school community and community partners. Previously, Dr. Andrade was the Director of the Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). He also served as Director of the Division of Health Access at DPH, helped found the Racial Equity Leadership Team and Cross-Department Racial Equity Collaborative at DPH, and was Associate Dean of Health and Wellness and Director of Student Health Services at Wheaton College in Norton, MA. He served as critical care, public health, and ward nurse at Boston Medical Center; nurse manager and head athletic trainer at Buckingham Browne & Nichols School in Cambridge, MA; and was owner/operator of Active Health, a private health and fitness company. Craig is a registered nurse, athletic trainer, licensed massage therapist, and strength and condition specialist with master's and doctoral degrees in public health from Boston University.



**Lauren Smith**, MD, MPH, is the chief health equity and strategy officer for the CDC Foundation and a member of the executive team. In this role, Smith brings more than 25 years working at the intersection of health care delivery and management, public policy, and public health fields.

As chief health equity and strategy officer, Smith partners with the CDC Foundation’s other senior leaders to develop and drive strategic efforts to embed health equity across the full range of the Foundation’s activities with an explicit focus on addressing systemic racism and other structural inequities and their impact on vulnerable populations’ health, wellbeing, and resiliency. In addition, she leads activities to build organizational capacity to integrate health equity into the Foundation’s practice, process, action, innovation, and organizational performance to elevate the importance of and deepen the Foundation’s health equity impact. Smith also serves as a principal advisor to the board of directors, the CEO, and the executive team on the Foundation’s overall strategic opportunities, risks, and tradeoffs related to health equity strategy and implementation.



**Jonathan Guzman** is the External Affairs Manager at Groundwork Lawrence. Jonathan was born and raised in Puerto Rico and moved to Lawrence in 2010. Jonathan joined GWL in 2021 as the Public Affairs Coordinator. He graduated from Fitchburg State University with a BS in Biology with a minor in Political Science. Serving the community is one of his passions,

and since founding a Humanitarian Club in 2012, he has been involved as a volunteer, member, or director for many nonprofit efforts including Habitat for Humanity, MSPCA, Project Bread, Dosomething.org, YMCA, Red Cross, and Delete Blood Cancer. In addition to his work with GWL, Jonathan also serves Lawrence’s next generation as a member of the Lawrence School Committee. During his “spare” time, he enjoys being with family, friends, and both of his rescue dogs, Aurora (German Shepherd) and Daisy (Chihuahua).



**Sofia Owen** is the Staff Attorney at Alternatives for Community and Environment. She works with ACE staff to ensure that the legal rights of people of color and low-income residents are protected. She also provides systematic legislative and regulatory advocacy on behalf of environmental justice communities at the municipal and state level. Sofia comes to ACE from Toxics Action Center, where she provided organizing assistance to community groups in Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island and built power to address environmental racism, settler colonialism, and other systemic barriers that disproportionately affect communities on the front lines of pollution. Previously, Sofia worked as a Trial Attorney for the Committee for Public Counsel Services. She has a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law, a Masters in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School, and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. When not at work, Sofia organizes with the Deeper Than Water coalition and volunteers with the Boston chapter of Black & Pink. She enjoys practicing yoga and watching soccer, particularly the US Women’s National Team and the Uruguayan national teams.



**Cheryl Sbarra** is the Executive Director and Senior Staff Attorney for the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB). She provides technical assistance, policy guidance, and legal education to the 351 local boards of health in Massachusetts, all of whom have the legal authority to enact local public health laws. Sbarra assists them and other municipal officials and attorneys in developing, enacting, and enforcing local regulations, ordinances, and bylaws.

Cheryl served on the Special Commission for Local and Regional Public Health and currently sits on the Local and Regional Public Health Advisory Board. She also heads a staff at MAHB that provides technical assistance and legal education to local boards of health relative to COVID-19.

**Bios for MPHA staff members speaking during the conference can be found at <https://mapublichealth.org/mpha-staff/>**

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Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Bachelor of Science in  
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## MPHA Annual Business Meeting Agenda & Materials

Call to Order      Neil Maniar, Board President

Elections            Neil Maniar & Jodie Silverman, Immediate Past President and Nominating Committee Chair

- Election of New Board Members
- Election of Officers
- Election of ARGC
- Recognition of Departing Board Members

*(Voting will be done through polling on zoom)*

### Vote #1: New Board Members Slate

Vote to set the size of the MPHA Board to 20 members and to approve Lesly Melendez, Elena Kontogli, and Bisola Ojikutu to the MPHA Board

**A vote “yes” will accept the slate and set the size of the Board to 20 members. A vote “no” will reject the slate.**

#### Lesly Melendez



Lesly is the Executive Director of Groundwork Lawrence and has worked with MPHA as a member of our Policy Council since it was first created in 2016. In her previous role as Deputy Director of GWL, Lesly was instrumental in expanding their community-based programming. As a lifelong resident of Lawrence, Lesly has always been passionate about serving her community. She has served on numerous volunteer boards, including the City’s Planning and Licensing boards. In 2016, Lesly completed the Core Certificate Program with the Institute for Nonprofit Practice. Lesly brings years of business, nonprofit, government, and community activism to her work. She brings a unique perspective to what is needed by people of color to advance in the professional world. Lesly brings her love of writing, community, and civic engagement and her passion for trees and open space to her work and, as she is rotating off the Policy Council, Lesly has specifically chosen to maintain her connection to MPHA by joining the Board.

## **Elena (Stamatopoulou) Kontogli**



Elena is currently the Director of Marketing and Brand Experience at Sturdy Memorial Hospital in Attleboro, MA, where she works with members of the senior management team to ensure alignment of system-wide messaging amplifying the voice of the organization and reflecting its mission and values. She leads digital marketing, physician referral generation, communications, and reputation management in support of the organization's strategic plan and growth goals. In addition to owning her own marketing firm, Marketing by Mission Consulting, she has worked as the Director of Marketing and Communications at Boston University, Associate Director of Marketing Operations at Harvard Medical School, and Director of Marketing at Harbor Health Services. Elena has spent the last 20 years developing strategic plans and overseeing major initiatives promoting the mission, vision, and programs of community and public health organizations, ensuring their financial viability in a harshly competitive environment. She has already begun contributing her time and expertise to MPHA as a member of the Board's Development Committee for the last six months.

## **Bisola Ojikutu**



Bisola Ojikutu, MD, MPH, is the Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) and a nationally recognized physician leader, health equity researcher, community advocate, and expert in the prevention, care, and treatment of infectious diseases. Dr. Ojikutu is a key advisor to Boston Mayor Michelle Wu on health issues and builds innovative partnerships across city departments and within Boston's communities to positively impact the health of all city residents. Among other public health priorities, she is committed to addressing racism as a public health crisis and advancing health equity. Dr. Ojikutu is also an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a faculty member within the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital. In 2018, she was appointed Co-Chair of the Getting to Zero Statewide Campaign Comprehensive Care Committee to reduce HIV infections in Massachusetts. She is a former Commonwealth Fund Fellow in Minority Health Policy and has a Master's in Public Health in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard School of Public Health. She is board certified in internal medicine and infectious diseases

and is a Fellow of the Infectious Disease Society of America. In June, at our Annual Spring Awards Breakfast, MPHA honored Dr. Ojikutu and Mayor Wu with the inaugural *Catalyst for Justice Award*.

## **Vote #2: Election of MPHA Board Officers**

Vote to approve the slate of officers; names and offices are below. (Damōn Chaplin, President; Roeshana Moore Evans, President-Elect; Clara Chan Farnsworth, Treasurer; Neil Maniar, Immediate Past President).

**A vote “yes” will accept the slate. A vote “no” will reject the slate.**

### **Damōn Chaplin, President**



Damōn Chaplin serves as the Director of the New Bedford Health Department. In this role, he manages a multi-discipline staff, operating multiple public health division’s responsible for enforcing federal, state, and local ordinances and codes for approximately 100,000 residents living in private and public housing units, patronizing local businesses and restaurants. He currently, co-chairs the Greater New Bedford Opioid Task Force. In addition, he was recently asked to join the Massachusetts Health Equity Compact (HEC), which brings together over 30 Black and Latinx leaders across a diverse set of Massachusetts health organizations to leverage their collective voices to advocate for health equity and health care reform. Mr. Chaplin has over 25 years of experience in health and human services related work and has spearheaded the program operations for the Massachusetts Large Cities Health Coalition, consisting of the state’s 14 largest cities (cities with populations of 70, 000 or greater) ranging from Framingham with a population of approximately 70,000 people to Boston with a population of more than 650,000 people. He is also a member of the Executive Committee for the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). At each stage of his career, he has found himself gravitating towards leadership opportunities where he could share his public health story with people and connect them to resources and opportunities that would ensure each person an equal opportunity to their full measure of life.



### **Roeshana Moore-Evans, President Elect**



Roeshana Moore-Evans, MBA is the new Executive Director of the Harvard & Legacy of Slavery Initiative, a university-wide effort to reckon with Harvard's ties to slavery and remedy the persistent educational and social harms that human bondage caused to descendants, the campus community, and to the surrounding cities, the Commonwealth, and the nation. Prior to this role she served as the Senior Advisor and Chief of Staff to Dr. Nikhil Wagle, the Director of Count Me In, a patient-partnered research initiative that's part of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. Roeshana has been a board member at MPHA since 2014 and chairs the Racial Equity in Health Committee. She has been instrumental in leading the work to deepen MPHA's understanding of structural racism and to dismantle it.

### **Clara Chan Farnsworth, Treasurer**



Clara Chan Farnsworth is a seasoned professional with over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry. She is currently a Vice President within the Enterprise Data Services (EDS) organization at Wellington Management Company, a \$1+ trillion-dollar investment management company with 2,400+ global institutional clients. In her role, Clara drives the adoption and implementation of the firm's Data Governance Program. The program's mission is to enable the Firm to treat data as a critical asset that powers investment and service excellence. She partners with business and technology leaders and stakeholders across the Firm to design and deploy standards, practices, and tools to meet the objectives of ensuring clients and employees can readily find, access, understand, and trust critical data. EDS brings together functions of enterprise data architecture, data governance and product strategy, and market data services and data integrity to enable the total data as an asset mission. She is a member of Wellington's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Committee, with a mission to influence the Firm's DE&I strategy through deliberate actions that highlight multiple dimensions of diversity and inclusive leadership strengths of the Firm. Clara is also co-chair for the Four Seas employee resource group, a 300+ member cohort whose mission is to create an affinity for all colleagues who have an interest in learning about Asian culture, to advance talent outcomes, and to empower better decisions and innovative solutions for the benefit of clients, Firm, and colleagues.

### Neil Maniar, Immediate Past President



Neil Maniar is a Professor of Public Health Practice, Associate Chair of the Department of Health Sciences, and Director of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University. Prior to joining Northeastern, he was the Vice President of Health Systems within the American Cancer Society's New England Division, overseeing cancer control efforts in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Prior to joining the ACS, he was the Director of Health Equity Programs in the Brigham and Women's Hospital Center for Community Health and Health Equity. Dr. Maniar was also the founding director of the Massachusetts Youth Violence Prevention Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In addition to MPHA, he currently serves on the Board of the Eastern New England Region of the American Cancer Society and UTEC. Neil has served as President of MPHA for the past two years.

### Vote #3: Reappointment of Affiliate Representative to the Governing Council (ARGC) of APHA

Vote to reappoint Stewart Landers as the APHA Representative from MPHA.

**A vote "yes" will reappoint Mr. Landers. A vote "no" will reject his appointment.**



Stewart Landers has been a senior consultant at John Snow, Inc. (JSI) since 1994. He consults on issues related to HIV and AIDS; substance use disorder treatment; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) health; health care reform; chronic disease; and health equity. Mr. Landers is currently Principal Investigator of the Integrated HIV/AIDS Planning (IHAP) TA Center that provides training and technical assistance to support integrated HIV prevention and care planning across all jurisdictions in the United States. Prior to that, Mr. Landers was Co-Principal Investigator of the Affordable Care Enrollment (ACE) TA Center. From 2007-2009, Mr. Landers served as senior program director at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In addition to his consulting duties, Mr. Landers is an associate editor for the American Journal of Public Health focused on LGBTQ health, community health workers, chronic disease, and HIV since 2005, and has taught Evaluation of Health Services at the Tufts University Graduate Program in Public Health. Stewart has served as MPHA's ARGC for a number of years.

## Recognition of Outgoing Board Members



[Heather McMann, Board Treasurer](#)

*For Outstanding Service  
on the Board of Directors  
2011-2022*

*And  
For Her Exemplary Service as  
Board Treasurer 2018-2022*



[Aswita Tan-McGrory, Board Member](#)

*For Outstanding Service  
on the Board of Directors  
2016-2022*

*And  
For Her Exemplary Service as  
Chair of the Development Committee*