

COVID-19 Impacts and Lessons Learned Session: Speaker Bios

Liz Baxter is honored to act as CEO of the North Sound ACH, which works to advance health, equity, social justice and wellbeing across five counties in the North Sound region of Washington, which sit on the traditional homelands of the Coast Salish people, whose presence is imbued in the waterways, shorelines, valleys and mountains – since time immemorial. Liz has spent her career in executive positions that build bridges between complex policy discussions and the public's ability to understand and weigh in on these issues. Liz acts as a “translator” of technical knowledge for those who don't live inside the policy world, and bridges information between community members and decision makers.

KJ January (she/her/hers) is a daughter of military parents that has always taken pride in her work ethic, responsibility, and accountability. Using her Psychology Degree from EWU, she consistently looks to improve the lives and environment of those around her through her empathy and problem-solving skills. Growing up as a student-athlete she has vast experience working in teams and the ability to help make those around her better.

KJ has a lifelong passion for uplifting and empowering others within her hometown of Spokane. Her time working with students in the multicultural center at Spokane Falls Community College and families at the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center allowed her to find creative ways to advocate and amplify the needs of the community. In addition, as a caretaker, working with intellectually disabled teens and the elderly has given her further insight into communities unheard.

Furthering KJ's passion to continue her work empowering members of her community, she began her civic activism in 2018 working with the Washington State Democrats as a Field Organizer and eventually transitioning to the Constituency Outreach Manager during the 2020 election cycle. She worked to politically empower communities of color and other disenfranchised populations across the state. Currently, she works as the Director of Advocacy and Engagement at Spectrum Center Spokane, an intergenerational 2SLGBTQIA+ nonprofit centered in racial justice, working to uplift the community and create a safer, more equitable Spokane.

Leslie Naramore grew up, and now works and plays, in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge. She has worked in Community Action since 2013. As Executive Director Leslie is passionate about her community and works to ensure every voice gets heard. Born into poverty and then making her way through the ranks in the very agency that helped her family as a child, Leslie has a unique perspective on the work and mission of Community Action. In her spare time, she enjoys the outdoors with her family and dog.

Marguerite Ro, DrPH is the Chief of the Assessment, Policy Development, and Evaluation (APDE) unit and Director of the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention (CDIP) section of Public Health – Seattle & King County. The APDE unit provides data services to Healthier Here, the King County ACH. APDE has also partnered with Healthier Here on a COVID community outreach and education project. Dr. Ro also sits on Healthier Here's Consumer and Community Voices committee.