

Closing Keynote: Speaker Bios

Celeste Schoenthaler, MPH is the Executive Director of Olympic Community of Health (OCH), the Accountable Community of Health serving Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap counties and the sovereign nations of the Hoh, Jamestown S’Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Makah, Port Gamble S’Klallam, Quileute, and Suquamish Tribes. Celeste guides the advancement of OCH’s mission by directing the design, implementation, and administration of OCH’s governance, programs, and collaborative efforts. She approaches this by working closely with the Board of Directors, the staff team, and partners across the region. Coming from a Public Health background, Celeste brings a passion for health and equity to her work along with experience in policy, systems and environment change efforts, and strategic communications.

Yolo Akili Robinson began his career in public health supporting Black communities as an HIV/AIDS counselor. He then branched into violence prevention, working as a family intervention counselor with Black men and boys for Men Stopping Violence. Feeling strongly about the need for more feminist work with men, Yolo co-founded [Sweet Tea: Southern Queer Men's Collective](#), a collective of gay and queer men who came to come together to address sexism and misogyny in LGBT communities. In 2015, he was recruited by Children’s Hospital Los Angeles to lead a 10 million dollar National Institutes of Health research initiative focusing on improving health outcomes for young Black and Latino men, the Healthy Young Men's study (HYM). Alongside Yolo’s counseling and training work, he has written and been featured in numerous publications on wellness including GQ, Women’s Journal, Shondaland, Mashable, Healthyish, The Mighty.com, Ebony, The Huffington Post, and Everyday Feminism(s). He is also the author of the social justice themed affirmation book ["Dear Universe: Letters of Affirmation & Empowerment For All Of Us"](#), a book which led him to be named a "Health Hero" By BET.Com. In 2009, he was awarded a ZAMI scholarship to complete his [200 level certification as a Hatha yoga teacher](#). In 2020, Yolo was featured on BET Awards “Empowerful Spotlight” for his work with BEAM. He is also a contributor to the NY Times best selling anthology edited by Dr. Brene Brown and Tarana Burke, ["You Are Your Best Thing."](#) Yolo's commitment to increasing the accessibility and visibility of health and wellness issues also has opened the door for many speaking engagements. He has delivered keynotes at numerous universities, colleges and conferences such as Vanderbilt, Claremont Mckenna, Ramapo College and Columbia University. At the core of Yolo's work is a commitment to wellness informed by social justice. His interests are the practical embodiment of theory into systems and practices that help heal, transform and support Black communities. He makes his home in Los Angeles, California.

Michael Arnis is currently the Deputy Policy Director at the Washington State Health Care Authority. He has developed innovative programs that increased access to health care, promoted quality, and saved money. Michael has worked on behalf of low-income families, workers, and small and large employers, and communities throughout Washington State.

Mich'l Needham is the Chief Policy Office for the Washington Health Care Authority. She oversees policy innovation, health equity, and new projects seeking to transform the health care delivery system. The Policy Division also oversees legislative relations and supports policy and program development throughout the agency. Before joining HCA in 2017, Mich'l most recently served as the senior policy analyst for the Senate Health Care Committee overseeing federal health care issues, including Medicaid and the Health Benefit Exchange, as well as commercial insurance.

Bonnie Wennerstrom has been with the Washington State Health Care Authority's Policy Division since January 2016. In her role as Policy Connector, Bonnie works with the Medicaid Transformation team, Accountable Communities of Health, and other state agencies and partners to move initiatives forward in ways that promote inclusivity and thoughtful progress. Bonnie also worked on Washington's State Innovation Models (SIM) grant, and other initiatives related to health system transformation in Washington state. Before her role in state government, Bonnie worked as a health center manager with Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and Hawaiian Islands.