



Commission on Native Children
Friday, March 10, 2023
11am-1pm AKT/ 1-3pm MT/ 2-4pm CT/ 3-5pm ET

Virtual Hearing: Diabetes and Nutrition

This panel will examine trends in diabetes prevention, intervention and treatment and nutrition in Native communities, and innovative opportunities to transform the high incidence of diabetes and improve wellness for Native children and youth. American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) youth have the highest prevalence rate of type 2 diabetes compared with youth of all other racial and ethnic groups in the United States. Providers need to consider several important differences in approaches to testing and treatment of youth with diabetes, as compared with adults. As evidenced by the Special Diabetes Program at the Indian Health Service, diabetes, and childhood diabetes in particular, occurs at disproportionate rates for Native children and youth, and the program is demonstrating some success in reducing these rates. Successful community-based approaches to reduce the incidence of diabetes, provide appropriate treatment, and approaches to nutrition will be highlighted as effective means to address these issues. The panelists will provide practice-based, academic and research perspectives on opportunities and challenges to improve these health outcomes for Native children. will address the opportunities and challenges for researchers and evaluators to conduct ethical, culturally responsive, and inclusive research and evaluation in Native communities, and to provide valuable data to support improved programming and results for Native children. More contemporary approaches to data sovereignty and participatory research/evaluation have created more respectful relationships between researchers/evaluators and Native communities. The panelists will provide academic and research perspectives on the best methods to engage in research and evaluation in order to improve educational, economic, health and justice outcomes for Native children.

- Introductions and welcome (5 minutes) Chair Gloria O’Neill
- Invocation (3 minutes)
- Review of Commission Norms (2 minutes) Chair Gloria O’Neill

The Commission will adhere to the following norms in all interactions:

- To incorporate ceremony and/or prayer to begin each meeting
- To recognize and celebrate what is working
- To respect all ideas
- To be mindful of each person’s own behavior and reactions so as not to repeat trauma behaviors

- To promote healing
 - To ensure there is a community-organized closing event at hearings
 - To treat others as they want to be treated
 - To not take offense and observe without judgment
 - To pause before decision
 - To have fearless, honest dialogue
 - To be flexible
 - To hear all voices
 - To learn from story
 - To be respectful of time
- Overview of Commission and goals of meeting (5 minutes) Chair O’Neill
 - **Dr. Spero Manson**, Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Psychiatry, directs the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, and occupies the Colorado Trust Chair in American Indian Health within the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado Denver’s Anschutz Medical Center (15 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)
 - **Dr. Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan**, Professor of Rural Health and Medicine and Director of the Center for Indigenous Health Research and Policy at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (15 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)
 - **A-Dae Romero Briones**, Director of Programs-Native food and Agricultural Program for First Nations Development Institute and Co-founder/director of the California Tribal Fund (15 minutes, 5 minutes for questions)
 - Cross-Cutting Recommendations from Witnesses (20 minutes) Chair O’Neill
 - Questions and discussion (22 minutes) Chair O’Neill
 - Wrap up (3 minutes) Chair O’Neill

Spero M. Manson



Spero M. Manson, Ph.D. (Little Shell Chippewa) is Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Psychiatry, directs the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, and occupies the Colorado Trust Chair in American Indian Health within the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado Denver's Anschutz Medical Center. His programs include 10 national centers, which pursue research, program development, training, and collaboration with 225 Native communities, spanning rural, reservation, urban, and village settings across the country. A medical anthropologist, Dr. Manson has acquired \$268 million in sponsored research to support this work and published 280+ articles on the assessment, epidemiology, treatment, and prevention of physical, alcohol, drug, as well as mental health problems over the developmental

life span of Native people. He has served on the National Advisory Councils of 3 institutes at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and recently completed a 4-year term as a member of its Advisory Committee to the Director. Dr. Manson sits on the Health Equity Advisory Committee of *Health Affairs*, and the search committee for Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Over the course of his 45-year career, Dr. Manson has mentored more than 150 young scientists, most American Indian or Alaska Native, many of whom now occupy major positions of scientific leadership. His numerous awards include the American Public Health Association's Rema Lapouse Mental Health Epidemiology Award (1998) and Award for Lifetime Contribution to the Field of Mental Health (2019), 4 special recognition awards from the Indian Health Service (1985, 1996, 2004, 2011), election to the National Academy of Medicine (2002); 2 Distinguished Mentor Awards from the Gerontological Society of America (2006; 2007), Association of American Colleges of Medicine's Nickens Award (2006); George Foster Award for Excellence (2006) and Distinguished Career Achievement Award (2020) from the Society for Medical Anthropology, NIH Health Disparities Award for Excellence (2008), Bronislaw Malinowski Award from the Society for Applied Anthropology (2019); Centers for Disease Control Foundation's Elizabeth Fries Health Education Award (2021), and the Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat International Prize in Mental Health from the National Academy of Medicine. He is widely acknowledged as one of the nation's leading authorities in regard to Indian and Native health.

Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan



Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan, Dr.PH, M.P.H., is Professor of Rural Health and Medicine and Director of the Center for Indigenous Health Research and Policy at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences. Dr. Jernigan has been the Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator on more than 10 NIH-funded trials to improve food systems and health in Indigenous communities. She led the THRIVE study, the first randomized trial of healthy makeovers in tribal convenience stores, the FRESH study, a farm-to-school intervention to support healthy eating patterns among Native American children, and a newly launched Indigenous Supported Agriculture study to promote sustainable changes to the food environment and health in Native communities. Dr. Jernigan leads the Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity, funded by the Office of Minority Health, which supports community-based initiatives to restore traditional

food systems and practices in American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. Dr. Jernigan has served as an expert member on several National Academies of Sciences' committees including the *Health Equity Approaches to Obesity Efforts* and the *Unequal Treatment Revisited: The Current State of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare*. She serves on the editorial boards for *Health Promotion Practice*, *Progress in Community Health Partnerships*, and *Geneology*. Dr. Jernigan is the first Indigenous person to serve on the DHHS advisory panel to develop the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Dr. Jernigan received her doctorate in public health from the University of California, Berkeley, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in cardiovascular disease prevention at Stanford University. She is an enrolled citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

A-dae Romero-Briones



A-dae (Kiowa/Cochiti) was born and raised in Cochiti Pueblo, New Mexico and comes from the Toyekoyah/Komalty Family from Hog Creek, Oklahoma on the Kiowa side. Mrs. Romero-Briones works as Director of Programs-Native food and Agricultural Program for First Nations Development Institute and Co-founder/director of the California Tribal Fund. She is formerly the Director of Community Development for Pulama Lana'i. She is also the co-founder and former Executive Director of non-profit for Cochiti Pueblo, New Mexico. Mrs. Romero-Briones worked for the University of Arkansas' Indigenous Food and Agricultural Initiative while she was getting her LLM in Food and Agricultural

Law. She wrote extensively about Food Safety, the Produce Safety rule and tribes, and the protection of tribal traditional foods. A U.S. Fulbright Scholar, Ms. Romero-Briones received her Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy from Princeton University, and received a Juris Doctorate from Arizona State University's College of Law, and LLM in Food and Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas. President Obama recognized A-dae as a White House Champion of Change in Agriculture. She formerly sat on the National Organic Standards Board (2016-2021) and the Sustainable Ag and Food Systems Funders Policy Committee and a steering committee member for the Funders for Regenerative Agriculture. She is a member of the California Foodshed Funders group. And board member at the California Institute for Rural Studies.