

Attachment 1: Biographies for 2025 Board of Health Nonelected Member Candidates

Esther Lucero, MPP, is Dinè and Latina and a third generation urban Indian from Colorado Springs, Colorado. A leader in national public health policy for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives, Esther became CEO of the Seattle Indian Health Board in 2015 and completed a reorganization of the company by establishing a leadership team that is leading the charge toward an informed system of care that is grounded in indigenous knowledge.

Prior to Seattle Indian Health Board, Esther was the number one salesperson for a national retail corporation at the age of 22 before dedicating her life to public health policy for urban American Indians and Alaska Natives. She would later work in various positions for the *Native American AIDS project* and *Native American Health Center* before joining the *California Consortium for Urban Indian Health* where she oversaw 10 health programs throughout California. Esther played a key role in the drug Medi-Cal carve out and getting a Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) agreement to create a new program. She would also play a key role in California's SUD component that would allow tribes and urban Indian programs to work together.

Esther's passion and advocacy for Native health and transformative approaches to indigenous research and evaluation, Federal Indian Law and policy, reproductive justice for Indigenous women, and LGBTQ Two-Spirit health has made her a leader in health in Seattle and nationally.

Education:

- Masters of Public Policy from Mills College
- BA in Native American Studies from Mills College

Boards, Committees, Commissions:

- HealthierHere, Governing Board (co-chair)
- Governor's Behavioral Taskforce
- American Indian Health Commission
- Native Communities Committee
- Seattle LGBTQ Commission

Source: [Esther Lucero, MPP - Seattle Indian Health Board \(sihb.org\)](https://www.sihb.org)

Abigail Echo-Hawk (Pawnee), MA, is the Executive Vice President of Seattle Indian Health Board and the Director of their data and research division, Urban Indian Health Institute. She serves on the Robert Wood Johnson Public Health Data National Commission, the University of Washington Population Health Initiative External Advisory Board, the Data for Indigenous Justice Board, and many other boards and committees related to data justice and health equity. She also served on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) committee to create A Framework for Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for the Novel Coronavirus in 2020.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Abigail's voice has been front and center on a national level, ensuring that the urban Native community is represented in data collection. Seattle Indian Health Board has been a leader in the COVID-19 response directly because of Abigail's leadership and vision. She has co-authored numerous peer-reviewed articles including two for the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly Report on COVID-19 among American Indian and Alaska Native people and was lead author on a report about the data genocide of American Indians and Alaska Natives in COVID-19 data.

Abigail has also led the way in bringing the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) to the forefront, leading directly to federal, state, and local legislation working to protect Native women. She serves on the Washington State Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People Taskforce, which she was instrumental in bring to fruition.

Abigail earned her Bachelor of Arts in American Studies with a minor in Human Rights and her Master of Arts in Policy Studies both from the University of Washington. She is a researcher and policy professional specializing in tribal government and urban Indian relations. She successfully leads teams of public health professionals to develop culturally competent and culturally relevant NIH-, CDC-, and HHS-funded health and policy interventions with tribal and urban Indian communities across the country.

Source: 2022 Board of Health membership appointment process

Katherine Gudgel has an extensive background in the healthcare industry. Katherine's work experience includes roles such as Director of Community Programs at HealthPoint (CHC), where she oversaw various health programs in schools and for the homeless population. Prior to this, she worked as a Community Health Manager in the Seattle area, conducting needs assessments and developing strategies for organizations. Katherine also served as a Contracts Project Manager at Community Health Plan of Washington, focusing on ensuring compliance with contract requirements.

Katherine has experience as a Grants Program Manager at PTSO and as a Community Benefit Program Manager at Group Health Cooperative. Earlier in her career, she held positions at the WA State Dept of Health, including as an STD Operations Coordinator and an Infertility Prevention Project Coordinator. Katherine brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in healthcare management and program development.

Katherine has been a non-elected board member representing Public health, Facilities and Providers since January 2023.

Katherine Gudgel obtained a Master of Science degree in Pathobiology from the University of Washington in 1993-1994. Prior to that, she completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology at Rice University from 1988-1991.

Source: <https://theorg.com/org/healthpoint-chc/org-chart/katherine-gudgel>

Mustafa Mohammed: I was born & lived in Iraq until 2006. I speak English, Arabic, Turkish, and Turkman languages, some Kurdish, I'm currently a resident of the State of Washington. I lived & worked as a physician in Baghdad during the first & second Gulf Wars.

I completed my medical school in Iraq (MBCHB) in 1993 & continued work as an MD for 25 years in governmental, private hospitals and clinics. I immigrated to the USA in 2008, rebuilt myself as a Mental Health Profession, and specialize working with refugees and immigrants (Middle East).

I'm a Certified Mental Health Professional and Cross-Cultural Counselor licensed in Seattle Washington, employed at Lutheran Community Services (LCSNW). The focus of my work there is both as an intake specialist & clinician to diverse refugee clients, who are victims of War Trauma in their home countries and were displaced as refugees or sought asylum here in the US. I started an Iraqi Men's Group in 2015, and it became very successful program at LCSNW.

I have completed many thousands of hours in training over the years, including a year-long Global Mental Health program with Harvard Medical School for Trauma and Recovery. Besides counseling, I specialize also in client advocacy and community empowerment for refugees, immigrant rights, and the needs of our minority populations such as the BIPOC and the LGBTQ communities.

I occupied many positions through my career in Iraq and USA including: A Physician in Health Facilities (both Governmental and Private), A Liaison Doctor, A Captain in the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, Chairman of the Neighborhood Advisory Council & Member of the District Advisory Council in Iraq, A volunteer at the United Nation High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Medical Interpreter public health king county, Health Educator at International Medicine clinic at Harborview Medical Center, Board Member and Vice President of the Iraqi/Arab Health Board, A Member of the Community Health Board Coalition, President and cofounder of the International Organization for Human Rights Protection and Global Peace (HRP&GP) , A Clinical Supervisor at Living Well Kent, A member of the Community Advisory Council/Health Equity Zone in the Washington Health Department , a member in "PEAR CAT" PRO-EQUITY ANTI-RACISM (PEAR) Community Advisory Team (CAT) , king county behavior health member, Executive Ambassador Mideastern Specialist at The Musketeer Association (TMA), On-Call Telehealth nationally and Internationally, Youth Mental Health Clinician-WISE program.

I have been recognized for my Dedication to Saving Lives through the nonprofit I cofounded Human right protection & global peace (HRP&GP) and have received an Award of Excellence from the NPS counselling team at LCSNW. More of my life story, struggle and accomplishments are featured in a permanent museum piece in the Tacoma History Museum, Washington.

Source: Mustafa Mohammed

Dr. LaMont Green (he, him) has nearly 20 years of experience helping local communities and governments identify and dismantle the persistent drivers of inequity in human services, homelessness, housing, behavioral health, and criminal justice systems. Green is a person with lived experience of homelessness and is a military Veteran. He has led several community-driven initiatives centered on improving systems of care for complex health and historically disenfranchised populations, and currently codirects the Technical Assistance Collaborative's (TAC) [Systems Alignment Innovation Hub](#), funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help practice-based organizations in low-income and BIPOC communities to expand and utilize the evidence base for solutions that improve health outcomes and reduce racial and social disparities. Dr. Green also brings expertise in Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) homelessness programs, human-centered design, continuous quality improvement, and implementation science. He is a nationally recognized racial equity leader and has spoken at numerous conferences to inspire action towards undoing institutional racism and other forms of oppression. He received his Doctorate of Social Work from the University of Southern California with a focus on harnessing social innovation to address the Grand Challenge of Achieving Equal Opportunity and Justice for All.

Prior to joining TAC, Dr. Green worked as the Special Initiatives Director for the Seattle-King County (WA) Continuum of Care. He led this community's implementation of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, which resulted in significantly fewer unaccompanied youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness and advanced young adult participation in governing, designing, and evaluating housing and supportive services. Dr. Green is also a co-founder of the WA State Lived Experience Coalition.

Recent Publications

[Boosting the Power of Harm Reduction with Culturally Responsive Housing, Recovery Supports, and Treatment](#)

[Heart Equity Action Lab \(HEAL\) Racial Equity & Social Justice Tool](#)

Source: Dr. LaMont Green