



WEBINAR GUEST BIOS

Harnessing power to drive policy change

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Jami Crespo
Senior attorney
ChangeLab Solutions

Jami Crespo's work as a senior attorney combines public health, law, policy and systems change, focusing on the role of health departments and community members in advancing health equity. Prior to ChangeLab Solutions, Crespo spent eight years in local public health as a policy analyst with Public Health Madison & Dane County. She worked to improve health and racial equity by analyzing laws and policies, and creating system changes related to behavioral health, emotional well-being and infant mortality. She also helped draft legal orders and guidance related to

COVID-19 safety. Crespo also worked with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, where she helped develop Medicaid policy on behavioral health. Before graduate school, Crespo worked for U.S. Reps Howard Berman and Barbara Lee on health, women and children's issues. Crespo earned her law and public affairs degrees from the University of Wisconsin and her bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis.



McKenzie Cowlbeck
Executive director
Oklahoma Public Health Association

McKenzie Cowlbeck (she/her) is a born and raised Oklahoman. She graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in math and sciences, and a master's in public health administration and policy from the University of Oklahoma. After graduate school, Cowlbeck was in the first cohort of the Centers for Disease Control and ChangeLab Solutions Public Health Law Fellowship focusing on policy surveillance. She led Oklahoma Public Health Association's (OPHA) policy, advocacy and administrative revitalization through a mix of consulting, volunteering and serving on

OPHA's Board as policy chair and affiliate representative to the American Public Health Association (APHA) Governing Council. She continues to lead OPHA's policy and organizational revitalization, focusing on process building, sustainability, and improving activities and benefits to strengthen Oklahoma's public health workforce since becoming OPHA's full-time executive director in September 2024. Cowlbeck is passionate about public health students and practitioners engaging in the policymaking process to inform policy and improve population-level outcomes. Because of her work with OPHA, APHA, and fellow affiliates, Cowlbeck was honored as the APHA Council of Affiliates Student of the Year in 2023, and with the inaugural APHA Giorgio A. Piccagli Leadership Award in 2024.