

Speakers

Steve Barker

Steve Barker joined the staff of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce in October of 2005 and has been in his current position as Sr. Research Analyst since August 2007. In that role he functions as Oklahoma's prime contact with the US Census Bureau's Federal and State Cooperative for Population Estimates and the State Data Center network. He is an expert at not only finding, but applying a variety of demographic, business, and economic data points for reporting and analysis.

In an earlier position with ODOC, Mr. Barker authored two extensive reports on workforce supply and demand. The [2006 Report on Oklahoma's Health Care Industry Workforce](#) was nationally recognized by the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER, formerly known as ACCRA) and Steve also authored a similar report on Oklahoma's Aerospace Industry. These and other reports have been directly cited in support of multiple public policy initiatives undertaken within the state.

Prior to joining the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Mr. Barker worked for eight years with financial controller responsibilities at a large, multi-state bank holding company headquartered in Oklahoma. He holds an undergraduate degree in economics and an MBA, both from Oklahoma State University. Married since 1993, he is the father of two and a nearly lifelong resident of Oklahoma.

Kristy K. Bradley

Dr. Kristy Bradley, D.V.M., M.P.H., Dipl. ACVPM, is the State Epidemiologist employed with the Oklahoma State Department of Health. In this state governmental position, Dr. Bradley has a myriad of roles and responsibilities including surveillance of infectious diseases in Oklahoma, oversight of disease outbreak investigations, assistance with policy development, active involvement in the state's bioterrorism and pandemic preparedness and response programs, and lecturing to professional and lay groups. She graduated from the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1984. Following graduation, Dr. Bradley practiced small animal medicine and surgery for ten years. In 1996, Dr. Bradley received a master of public health degree from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and began her career in public health. She served as the Deputy State Epidemiologist and State Public Health Veterinarian from 2000 – 2007 prior to attaining the position of State Epidemiologist. Dr. Bradley is also involved in teaching and has adjunct assistant professor appointments in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the OU College of Public Health and the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Bradley was awarded diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine in 1999. She is active in several national and state organizations and most notably, currently serves as the President of the

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National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, and is a member of several committees of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, including the Infectious Disease Steering Committee, Influenza Surveillance Committee and Public Health Preparedness Advisory Committee. Her outside passion and interests are environmental preservation, bird feeding, and wildlife viewing.

Thad Burk

Thad Burk, MPH, Child and Adolescent Health Epidemiologist. Mr. Burk earned his MPH from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center with an emphasis in epidemiology. He began working in Maternal and Child Health as a Health Educator for the Perinatal and Reproductive Health Division in 2003. Since 2004 Thad has been an epidemiologist providing analytical support to Maternal and Child Health programs.

Julie Dillard

Julie Dillard, LMSW, received her Master of Social Work degree with a concentration in Children, Youth, and Families from Washington University in St. Louis in 2003.

She currently serves as the Public Health Social Work Coordinator as well as the SIDS/Infant Safe Sleep Coordinator within Maternal and Child Health at the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

Shelly Douglas

Shelly Douglas is the co-founder of HopeTeam, Inc. HopeTeam is dedicated to educating our communities about suicide intervention. She is a Registered Trainer for Living Works, Inc. and their Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training program. Shelly is also a consumer. She was diagnosed with Bipolar II seven years ago. She is a member of the Oklahoma Suicide Intervention Team who is dedicated to teaching and encouraging communities to open up dialogue regarding suicide. She is also a consultant for the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in the area of Suicide Intervention. She is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma with a B.A. in Psychology.

LCDR Julie Erb-Alvarez

LCDR Julie Erb-Alvarez serves as the Area Epidemiologist for the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service. She provides epidemiology support for the federal system in the Oklahoma City Area and serves as Improvement Support Team lead for the Area's Improving Patient Care (IPC) initiative. In April 2011, she was appointed Co-Chair of the OCA-IHS Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Other epidemiology positions she has held include those at the Oklahoma Tribal Epidemiology Center and in the Republic of Palau in Micronesia. Additionally, she served for six years as the Cancer Program Director

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for the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. LCDR Erb-Alvarez holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Health & Human Performance from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and a Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology from OU Health Sciences Center, College of Public Health.

Susan Harman

Susan Harman, MPH, (member of Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes) joined the TEC in May 2010 as an Epidemiologist. Ms. Harman received an MPH in Epidemiology from OUHSC and is currently a DrPH candidate at OUHSC. Ms. Harman's experience includes serving as an Epidemiologist for four years at the Oklahoma City County Health Department; and one year as a graduate research assistant at College of Public Health. Ms. Harman also served three years as a Research Associate at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy working on the Women's Health Research on Postmenopausal Women Study, and the Making a Case for Organizational Change in Patient Safety Initiative.

Cheewa James

Cheewa James is a sought after professional keynote speaker and corporate trainer working with associations, corporations, educational organizations, and government agencies across the United States and Canada. She encourages enhancing business and personal relationships by centering on the power of communication and motivation to

build leadership. Life balance and dealing with change are popular topics.

Cheewa was born on the Klamath Indian Reservation, Oregon, and is enrolled with the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma. Her father, Clyde "Chief" James was America's first Native American professional basketball player, starting with the Tulsa Diamond Oilers in the 1920's.

An accomplished author with nearly 100 articles in print, Cheewa's work has appeared in *Smithsonian*, *National Wildlife*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Kansas City Star*, and newspapers across the country. Her book, *Catch the Whisper of the Wind*, tells the inspirational stories of 60 Native Americans. Her latest book, *Modoc: The Tribe That Wouldn't Die*, is the phenomenal story of her own tribe, written over a 12 year period.

A former anchorwoman and producer, Cheewa has won the prestigious National Golden Mike Award for excellence in television production in the interest of youth and seven television United Press International Awards in reporting and documentary work. A nationally syndicated special on PBS, "American Indian Circles of Wisdom", featured her motivational speaking skills she is seen frequently on KVIE-PBS, Sacramento. Ms. James holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and a graduate degree in education. She is a certified educator.

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Thomas John

Mr. Tom John is the Chairman of the Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board and serves the Chickasaw Nation as the Administrator of Self-Governance.

Mr. John was raised on the Allegany Reservation in New York State. Mr. John is an enrolled member of the Seneca Nation of Indians, belongs to the turtle clan, and is a member of the Seneca Nations traditional longhouse. Mr. John's wife, Lisa, is Chickasaw, and they have two children, Lauren and Trevor. Tom enjoys many sports, the outdoors, and is an avid runner.

Alicia Lincoln

Alicia Lincoln has been the project manager for the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) and The Oklahoma Toddler Survey (TOTS) at the Oklahoma State Department of Health for the past seven years. IN 2004, Alicia earned her MSW and MSPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health with an emphasis in Maternal and Child Health.

N2T Teen Group

Kyle Ataddley, Caitlin Baker, Michele Horse, Brittany Biera, Hannah Lewis, Jade Chavez, Chelsea Taylor, Selina Hinse and Logan Johnson are members of N2T (need 2 talk), a youth group that is willing to serve a need in the community. By identifying and monitoring for signs of suicide or suicide ideation N2T

can assist those who are in need. N2T promotes awareness to the schools in the Caddo County area to help educate others about suicide prevention. In the future N2T will be using a text helpline to reach hurting youth and to refer them to the resources that are available. Also N2T has used community events as a method of reaching youth. N2T is made up of students from Riverside Indian School, Fort Cobb-Broxton High School, Anadarko High School, and Carnegie High School. N2T will continue to represent the voice of today's youth in the continued efforts to save lives from depression and/or suicide.

Susan Mendus

Susan Mendus has a Masters of Public Health degree from the University Of Oklahoma College Of Public Health. Ms. Mendus is the Education Director for Immunization Services at OSDH

She has been employed with the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Immunization Service for 24 years and has a strong commitment to the use of vaccines. Her job duties include developing vaccine educational materials and speaking to various groups about vaccines.

Derek Pate

Derek Pate has worked of the Oklahoma State Department of Health within the Center for Health Statistics since 2002. He has MPH. in Epidemiology and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of

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Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, College of Public Health.

Michael Peercy

Michael Peercy is an Epidemiologist for the Chickasaw Nation Division of Health (CNDH) and the Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority (CNHSA). Michael has been an employee of the Chickasaw Nation for 15 years, formerly serving as laboratory manager and project manager. He has held his current position for two years.

Michael serves as the CNDH tribal liaison to the Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) program. He is the Administrator of the CNDH Institutional Review Board (CNDH IRB), and is the Deputy Administrative Director of the CNHSA IRB. Michael also serves as the Tribal Self Governance representative on the Native American Health Research Advisory Council to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Michael is a certified Medical Technologist, Hematology Technologist and Project Management Professional.

He makes his home in Tishomingo with his wife, Katy, and two daughters, Maggie and Marianna.

J.T. Petherick

Mr. Petherick currently serves as the Health Legislative Officer for the Cherokee Nation

and is responsible for federal and state health policy issues affecting the Tribe.

Prior to joining the Cherokee Nation, J.T. served as the Executive Director and Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs at the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) in Washington, D.C.

Before serving the NIHB, J.T. served as the Deputy Director of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission in Oklahoma City.

He is a 1999 graduate of the University of Oklahoma College of Law and the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Public Health.

Mr. Petherick, originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is of Cherokee descent.

Cuyler Snider

Cuyler Snider, MPH, is an Epidemiologist for the Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board, Tribal Epidemiology Center, responsible for overseeing the operation of the Epidemiology Center's Health Disparities Grant. He has been with the Tribal Epidemiology Center since December of 2008. Mr. Snider graduated in 2006 with his Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science from Saint Gregory's University in Shawnee and in 2008 with his Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, College of Public Health.

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Darryl Tonemah

Darryl Tonemah (Kiowa/Comanche/Tuscarora) has a Ph.D., in Counseling Psychology and Cultural Studies, a Masters Degree in Community Counseling and two Bachelor Degrees. He was the psychologist that for the southwest sites of the Diabetes Prevention Program Study. He sits on numerous state and national boards addressing disparities in education, and health care among the Native community including: The Oklahoma Cancer Network, The Cherokee Cancer Coalition, Establishing the Oklahoma Intertribal Diabetes Coalition, The Oklahoma Governors Task Force for Health Disparities, The United National Intertribal Youth Diabetes Initiative, he also sits on the ADA Board of Directors, as well as Research Policy Committee, and the Native American Initiatives Committee. He is internationally viewed as an agent of change for his work. He is the owner of the Tonemah Consulting Group, an organization dedicated to increasing wellness in Native communities. He has also appeared in two movies, recorded seven award winning cd's, and is currently writing a trilogy of books, and a movie. He and his wonderful wife and 2 kidlets live outside of Lewiston New York.

David F. Wharton

David Wharton, RN, MPH is currently the Health Informaticist for the Choctaw Nation Health Services and Institutional Review Board Administrative Director for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

In his role as the Health Informaticist, David is directly responsible for the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), Performance Assessment Rating Tool (PART) and Meaningful Use Clinical Quality Measures programs. He works closely with the excellent clinical, information technology and health information management teams to insure appropriate delivery and documentation of evidence-based health interventions. Additionally, he supports programs across the Choctaw Nation by providing data design, extraction and analysis services.

As the Choctaw Nation Institutional Review Board (CNIRB) Administrative Director, David works with potential researchers and his fellow CNIRB members to insure the safety and protection of human participants in research studies.

David holds an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing from Seminole State College in Seminole, OK; a Bachelor of Science with a double major in Health Administration and Environmental Science from East Central University in Ada, OK; and a Master of Public Health from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, OK.

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Ashley White

Ms. White is an epidemiologist for the Oklahoma City Area Inter-Tribal Health Board Tribal Epidemiology Center. She is responsible for oversight of the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant. Ms. White holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Health Science from East Central University and a Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, College of Public Health.

Jeannie Williams

Jeannie Williams is the Surveillance Officer in the Division of Surveillance and Informatics of the Acute Disease Service at the Oklahoma State Department of Health. Ms. Williams graduated from the University of Oklahoma College Of Public Health with a Masters of Public Health in Epidemiology. Ms. Williams is also certified in Public Health.