

## Emerging Issues around COVID-19 and Social Determinants of Health for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and recovery Workforces

### Strategic Discussion 4: Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities and Addressing Stigma

Thursday, May 7, 2020: 2-3:00pm ET

#### **Facilitator: Larke Nahme Huang, PhD**

Director, Office of Behavioral Health Equity  
SAMHSA

Larke Huang is a licensed clinical-community psychologist at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She provides leadership on national policy for mental health and substance use issues for children and adolescents, is Director of SAMHSA's Office of Behavioral Health Equity which was legislated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and oversees SAMHSA's trauma and criminal/juvenile justice portfolio. For the past 30 years, Dr. Huang has worked at the interface of practice, research and policy. She received her doctorate from Yale University.

Dr. Huang has been a community mental health practitioner, a faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley and Georgetown University, and a research director at the American Institutes for Research. She has worked with states and communities to build systems of care and model policies for children and youth with serious emotional and behavioral disorders; diversion programs for individuals with SMI and SUD at the nexus of behavioral health and criminal justice; and trauma-informed approaches in multiple health and social service settings. She has developed programs for underserved, culturally and linguistically diverse populations, evaluated community-based programs, and authored books and articles on behavioral health.

Dr. Huang served as an appointed Commissioner on the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, is an ongoing member of the Carter Center Mental Health Board, and serves on multiple APA committees and boards.



**Co-Facilitator: Victoria Chau, PhD, MPH, CPH**

Public Health Analyst, Office of Behavioral Health Equity  
SAMHSA

Victoria Chau is a public health analyst at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the US Department of Health and Human Services. She works in the Office of Behavioral Health Equity and Justice-Involved at SAMHSA. Her work portfolio and interests center on health equity and behavioral health. She is engaged in various projects at the federal level related to improving mental health and reducing substance misuse in vulnerable and minority populations. She is especially interested in using data-informed strategies and elevating the work of communities to advance behavioral health equity. Though she has many public health interests, her primary area of expertise focuses on Asian American mental health from a social and behavioral sciences perspective. She received her PhD from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Health in the Health, Behavior and Society Department and her MPH from the University of Florida, and has earned her Certification in Public Health (CPH).



**Panelist 1: Victor Loo**

Victor Loo is the Director of Practice Innovation from Asian Counseling and Referral Service. He has over 18 years of experience in the provision, supervision, and management of behavioral health services/social services. He is 1 of the 25 national leaders in the SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS)'s Addressing Health Disparities Leadership Program, and 1 of the 15 national leaders in the National Council for Behavioral Health's Healthy Youth Leadership Institute. He is a member of the King County Integrated Care Network Finance Committee. He is a board member representing Behavioral Health sector in HealthierHere King County Governing Board, and also on its Executive Committee. Besides the passion to serving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, immigrants and refugees, he is also an active community advocate/leader for the LGBTQ community, and is a Commissioner with the City of Seattle LGBTQ Commission.



**Panelist 2: Michelle Lough, MD, MPH**

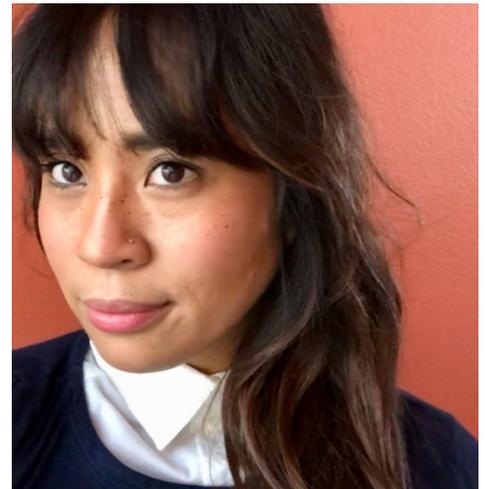
Michelle Lough, MD, MPH, was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. Growing up in a large, Chinese-American family of seven, she found her calling in social justice and community organizing for local Asian-American organizations focusing on immigrant rights, addiction, and sexual health. After attending UC Berkeley, she served in AmeriCorps Community HealthCorps and worked with individuals with substance use disorder. This experience inspired her to be a physician. She attended medical school at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine and also completed her Masters in Public Health in Health Policy at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Lough's career has centered around advocacy for undocumented communities, immigrant health, and substance use disorder. She is currently serving at UCSF-San Francisco General Hospital as a Family and Community Medicine resident physician.



Dr. Lough's philosophy towards treating substance use disorders is two-fold: on an individual level, focus on evidence-based harm reduction and patient-centered care, while simultaneously dismantling social inequities in the community on a societal level.

**Panelist 3: Marielle Reataza, MD, MS**

Dr. Marielle Reataza (she/hers) is a mental health and healthcare reform advocate. She is a 1.5 generation Asian American immigrant from Philippines, which has greatly shaped her involvement in public service. Having been a high school teacher, researcher, and physician, Dr. Reataza is most interested in finding and developing interdisciplinary approaches to addressing public health inequities that impact the youth, AANHPI, and LGBTQ+ communities. She currently works for and with several Los Angeles-based community-based organizations to address AANHPI and LGBTQ+ mental health.



Dr. Reataza believes that substance use must be addressed from a multi-faceted approach, using a combination of compassion, cultural sensitivity, scientific evidence, and a profound understanding of socioeconomic inequities. While it is important to address treatment for substance use, she is also an advocate for prevention, harm reduction, and recovery programs.

**Panelist 4: Chia-Chi Bonnie Wang, MSW, SUDP, MAC, MHP**

Bonnie Wang was born in Taiwan and has lived in Singapore before immigrated to the United States. She received her Master of Social Work at the University of Washington, Seattle in 2007. Ms. Wang is a Washington State Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP) and Master Addiction Counselor (MAC). She has 15 years of experience working with individuals and families affected by substance use and co-occurring disorders in community-based organizations. Ms. Wang is the Clinical Director of Washington Asian Pacific Islander (WAPI) Community Services in Seattle, WA. WAPI Community Services provides school-based prevention/early intervention services, and behavioral health treatment services to youth and young adults. Ms. Wang is also an adjunct professor for the Social Work Department at Seattle University, and has taught addiction counseling courses to undergraduates and postgraduates students.

