



2021 Syndromic Surveillance Symposium Speaker Bios

Day 1 – Tuesday, November 16, 2021

OPENING REMARKS AND KEYNOTE

1:00 PM EST Daily Open, Logistics, and Overview

Charlie Ishikawa, MSPH
Kahuina Consulting, LLC
President & Principal Consultant

1:15 PM EST Welcoming Remarks

Speakers:

- Janet Hamilton, MPH – CSTE, Executive Director
Janet Hamilton, MPH, assumed the role of CSTE's Executive Director in April 2020. As Executive Director, Janet works directly with the Executive Board and senior management team to lead and shape CSTE's mission of advancing the field of applied public health epidemiology in the U.S. Janet received her Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Michigan and is a graduate of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) 10 X 10 program. She was a member of CSTE's Executive Board, serving from 2011 to 2015 as the Surveillance and Informatics Steering Committee Chair and was CSTE President from 2017-2018.

- Karl Soetebier, MAPW – CDC/NSSP
Karl Soetebier is the NSSP Informatics Coordinator. Mr. Soetebier leads crosscutting informatics initiatives and supports day-to-day operations. His work ranges from developing technical standards to architectural planning. Mr. Soetebier has more than 20 years' experience in application development and technical leadership, most recently as director for the Office of Public Health Informatics, Georgia Department of Public Health. While there, he oversaw the introduction of Georgia's statewide syndromic surveillance program and developed technical solutions and system modules to support surveillance across a broad range of modalities and health conditions.
- Krystal Collier, BA – NSSP CoP Core Committee Chair
Krystal S. Collier is the Syndromic Surveillance Program Coordinator for the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Syndromic Surveillance Program and an active member of the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) Community of Practice (CoP) since 2012. She received her B.A. from Arizona State University in 2006. Her current position includes supporting ADHS' efforts to onboard and maintain data quality from healthcare facilities for Arizona into the BioSense Platform, answering questions for the agency's Meaningful Use Helpdesk, and a syndromic surveillance trainer and facilitator of the Arizona BioSense Workgroup, Arizona BioSense Opioid Workgroup, and Exploratory Analysis Subgroup. She also Chairs the NSSP CoP's Core Committee and an Ambassador to the Data Quality Subcommittee.
- Yushiuan Chen, MPH Tri-County Health Department (Colorado) – NSSP CoP Core Committee Deputy Chair

1:45 PM EST Keynote Discussion: Exploring the Past, Present, and Future of Public Health Surveillance

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- Sherri Davidson, PhD, MPH – Alabama Department of Public Health, State Epidemiologist, Director of the Office of Informatics & Data Analytics, Director Dr. Davidson earned her PhD and MPH from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health and has worked at the Alabama Department of Public Health since 2002. During her tenure, she has worked on a wide range of public health activities including smallpox vaccine distribution, influenza pandemic response, travelers with potential exposure to Ebola virus, cancer clusters, the opioid epidemic, and various methods for improving efficiencies for investigating and reporting emerging conditions and diseases. Dr. Davidson has co-authored several case definition position statements over the years.

30 MINUTE BREAK STARTING AT 2:30PM EST

BLOCK 1 [SESSIONS STARTING AT 3:00PM EST]

3:00 PM EST Training: ESSENCE 101

Track: Training/Demonstration

Description: An orientation for new users including 1) a brief introduction to syndromic surveillance and the NSSP and 2) an NSSP-ESSENCE step-by-step live demonstration highlighting how to navigate the tool and run, save, and share a query.

Trainer: Wayne Loschen, MS – Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHUAPL)

3:00 PM EST Roundtable: Integrating New Data Sources in Surveillance Practices

Track: Data Methods and Integration

Description: Discuss state and local public health agency challenges, successes, and opportunities to expand SyS by integrating new data sources.

Facilitator: Aaron Kite-Powell, MS – CDC/NSSP

3:00 PM EST Roundtable: Overdose Spike Alert Toolkit

Track: Topical Use Cases

Description: Discuss recent findings from the CSTE Overdose Spike Alert Advisory Group including innovative ideas and emerging topics in overdose anomaly detection and response.

Facilitators:

- Krystal Collier, BA – Arizona Department of Health Services
Krystal S. Collier is the Syndromic Surveillance Program Coordinator for the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Syndromic Surveillance Program and an active member of the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) Community of Practice (CoP) since 2012. She received her B.A. from Arizona State University in 2006. Her current position includes supporting ADHS' efforts to onboard and maintain data quality from healthcare facilities for Arizona into the BioSense Platform, answering questions for the agency's Meaningful Use Helpdesk, and a syndromic surveillance trainer and facilitator of the Arizona BioSense Workgroup, Arizona BioSense Opioid Workgroup, and Exploratory Analysis Subgroup. She also Chairs the NSSP CoP's Core Committee and an Ambassador to the Data Quality Subcommittee.
- David Swenson, BS, Med – State of NH Department of Health and Human Services
Dave manages the NH Division of Public Health Services state-wide syndromic surveillance system (onboarding, perform daily data analysis, and work with hospital IT staff/vendors/NH Department of Information Technology staff to maintain and develop the system). He has an IT background, a Master's in Education, a School of Public Health Informatics Certification from the University of Illinois at Chicago, over 15 years of experience in Syndromic surveillance, and is an active member of the NSSP Community of Practice and related NSSP and CSTE committees and workgroups.
- Sydney Fox, MPA – The Overdose Response Strategy (ORS)

3:00 PM EST Training: Data Sharing Step-by-Step Using the AMC

Track: Training/Demonstration

Description: Go through step-by-step instructions on how to share data with other jurisdictions through the AMC and discuss how building relationships, defining the purpose of shared-data surveillance, and defining AMC data sharing rules are involved in the process.

Trainer: Christopher Marder – CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DHIS/ISB

30 MINUTE BREAK STARTING AT 3:45PM EST

3:45 PM EST Coffee Break: Data Integration

Track: Data Methods and Integration

Description: Meet and network with colleagues across the country working on various stages of data integration.

Facilitators:

- Aaron Kite-Powell, MS – CDC/NSSP
- Karl Soetebier, MAPW – CDC/NSSP

3:45 PM EST Coffee Break: Open to All

Description: Meet and network with syndromic surveillance colleagues across the country.

Facilitators: CSTE and Kahuina 2021 Syndromic Surveillance Symposium planning committee

BLOCK 2 [SESSIONS STARTING AT 4:15PM EST]

4:15 PM EST Breakout: Admitted - Integrating Inpatient Data

Track: Data Methods and Integration

Description: Learn how states are using inpatient data to 1) identify resource needs and 2) enhance case finding.

Moderator: Daniel Bedford – State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services

Presenters:

- Andy Walsh, PhD – Health Monitoring
Andy Walsh is the Chief Science Officer at Health Monitoring. He has over a decade of experience analyzing syndromic surveillance data for infectious and noninfectious disease concerns, mass gathering preparedness, and healthcare policy questions. He has a PhD in molecular microbiology from the Bloomberg School of Public Health.
- Stacey Hoferka, MPH, MSIS – IL Dept of Public Health
Stacey Hoferka is an Epidemiologist at the Illinois Department of Public Health's Division of Patient Safety and Quality. She has been managing the syndromic surveillance implementation since 2012 and focuses on overdose prevention. She has a MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an MS in Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh.
- Neha Shanker, PhD, MPH – NC Division of Public Health, NC DHHS
Dr. Neha Shanker is a Public Health Epidemiologist working at the Communicable Disease Branch, North Carolina Division of Public Health. As a member of the systems surveillance unit, she monitors and analyzes data from Emergency Departments, Urgent Care Centers, and the NC Health Information Exchange network. Dr. Shanker holds an MPH from the Johns Hopkins University and a PhD in Virology.

4:15 PM EST Breakout: Overdose Surveillance to Action

Track: Topical Use Cases

Description: Hear how public health agencies use SyS to identify overdose clusters and link to prevention interventions.

Moderator: Michael Coletta, MPH – CDC/NCIPC

Presenters:

- Shahnaj Binte Safi, MBBS, MPH – CSTE/NMDOH
Shahnaj Binte Safi is a CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow working with the New Mexico Department of Health's Substance Abuse Epidemiology Section. Before pursuing her career in epidemiology, she worked as a physician in Bangladesh.
- Scott M. Johnston, MPH – Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Scott Johnston is an epidemiologist for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He works on the Overdose Data to Action project, primarily on the surveillance side, and regularly utilizes syndromic surveillance data to assist in detecting emerging drug overdose trends.
- Sarah Malarkey, B.S. – New Jersey Department of Health
Sarah Malarkey is a current MPH student concentrating in epidemiology at Rutgers School of Public Health. She is a research assistant at the Community Health Justice Lab the School of Public Health and was an intern at the Communicable Disease Service department at the New Jersey Department of Health.
- Mwedusasa Mtenga, MPH – Florida Department of Health
Ms. Mtenga is a surveillance epidemiologist with the Florida Department of Health whose current work involves using syndromic surveillance to describe and analyze trends in drug overdose for the state. Ms. Mtenga primary interest area is the intersection of health, socio-economic determinants, and public policy. Ms. Mtenga received and MPH from Florida A & M University in 2015 and a B.A. in History from Florida State University in 2011.