

Milken Institute School of Public Health

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

DrPH 2023 Online Cohort Bios

FALL 2023

Gene Migliaccio, DrPH
DrPH Program Director
geno@gwu.edu

Jen Skillicorn, DrPH
DrPH Associate Program Director
skilli_j@gwu.edu

950 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20052

Table of Contents

[Mary Crawford](#)

[Stefanie Dalgo](#)

[Tricia Douglas](#)

[Mecca East](#)

[Saleh Jany](#)

[Peter Kibanyi](#)

[Katelyn Morgan](#)

[Kathleen Newton](#)

[Catherine Pak](#)

[Jasmine Price](#)

[Stefan Ruehm](#)

[Carissa Russo](#)

[Clara Sei](#)

[Lindsey Skripka](#)

[Jessica Stewart](#)

[Luis Valdez](#)

[Grace Vixama](#)

[Katarzyna Wilczek](#)

[Logan Williams](#)

[Kayla DeVault Wendt](#)

[Emily Wood](#)

[Barbara Zabielski](#)



**Mary Katherine Crawford, MPH
(She/hers)**

Ms. Crawford obtained her Master of Public Health degree in January of 2020 from the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University. She has worked as a Research Assistant and Project Coordinator in the CS Mott Department of Public Health in the College of Human Medicine at Michigan State University, Flint campus since March of 2020. Ms. Crawford has passionately worked to address diverse public health issues since 2017, supporting the research of renowned experts in fields such as epidemiology, neurology, dissemination and implementation science, health policy, and maternal and child health.

Currently, Ms. Crawford serves as a vital member of the Computerized Intervention Authoring System's (CIAS 3.0 www.cias.app/about) investigative team and it's lead trainer, serving as a go-to liaison for CIAS researchers worldwide. Outside of her university work, Ms. Crawford co-founded Reroot, an environmental non-profit with locations in Pontiac and Flint Michigan, and is a volunteer leader with Michigan United's health care team where she lends her expertise in persuasive writing related to health issues in the state of Michigan. Ms Crawford is particularly committed to translating her public health research outcomes and knowledge into policy changes that increase health equity for disadvantaged groups.



Stefanie Dalgo, MHA

Stefanie Dalgo, MHA, is originally from Maryland. She attended UMBC for her undergraduate psychology degree before going on to the George Washington University for her master's in healthcare administration. With more than 12 years of experience working at various multispecialty practices in the DMV region, Stefanie joined the GW MFA in 2014 as the practice manager and education manager for the division of Neurosurgery. Stefanie developed and established new neurosurgical services throughout her stay at GW, helping patients get better access to care and opening up new locations in Maryland and Virginia. Stefanie also made it possible for the Neurosurgery residency program to be reorganized in line with ACGME executive objectives and fulfilled requirements for program completion for all residents within the program.

Stefanie made the decision to make some professional changes in 2022 and joined VHC Health as the Director for Primary Care. Since then, Stefanie has contributed to the provision of models of primary health care services that are based on evidence and aimed at increasing customer empowerment and severing the cycles of health inequity in the area.

Stefanie enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors. She is fluent in Spanish and is very excited to be part of the GW DrPH program and is proud to work with such a fantastic team of professionals.



Tricia S. Douglas, M.S., MPH

I am a Director of Regulatory Affairs at Pfizer Inc. in New York City. In this role, I work with cross-functional teams of leaders who work to bring new innovative medicines to market as well as maintain the safe and effective use of marketed products. I work on clinical study teams, labeling teams and observational study teams that utilize Real World Data and Evidence to support enhanced prescription drug labeling.

I was born in Jamaica, West Indies and currently reside on Long Island in New York. I enjoy exercising, travel, spending time with family and close friends and attend church and Bible study regularly.

I hold a bachelor's in biology with a minor in Chemistry, a Master of Science Degree in Pharmacy Administration, Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs and a Master of Public Health. My research interests include equity in access to prescription medicine, pricing and reimbursement, diversity in clinical trials and how improvements in these areas can lead to better health outcomes specifically for underserved and underrepresented populations suffering from conditions where lifestyle changes are not enough. I look forward to contributing to this space upon completion of my DrPH.



Mecca N. East, MPH

Mecca N. East, MPH was raised in East Orange, NJ. She graduated as valedictorian of Arts High School in 1999. She later received her Bachelor's Degree in Biology/Pre-Medicine in 2004 from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. In 2018, she received her Master's Degree in Public Health from The George Washington University in D.C. with a focus on Health Education and Health Promotion.

Mecca is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Imani Wellness Inc., a holistic health and wellness brand committed to improving health outcomes in the community in which she serves through education, nutrition, and stress management. In addition to this, she is currently serving as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of

Care Alliance Health Center. She is the founder of Salaam Clinic, a free clinic located in Cleveland, OH and previously served as the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director. Mecca has multiple years of experience in healthcare and the non-profit sector. She is a Qualified Mental Health Specialist, a certified doula and community health advocate who dedicates her time promoting health education and wellness to the community. Mecca is also a renowned public speaker, wellness coach, and provides professional development to local schools and organizations while incorporating mindfulness education techniques. Mecca is committed to uplifting her community by empowering individuals and families to embrace healthy behaviors as an integral part of their daily lifestyles.



Dr. Saleh Jany BDS MSC HLD MPH

I was born in Baghdad; Iraq and I earned the following degrees BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery); MSC (Master of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery); HLD (High Laser Diploma in Laser Application in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery); MPH from the Milken institute of public health at the George Washington University

I have years of experience practicing and teaching in general dentistry and as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and I have vast experience in war zones with maxillofacial trauma and missile injuries with immense experience in working with various types of medical lasers like Er:YAG (Kavo key3 Laser), CO2 laser and Nd:YAG laser. I held several teaching positions in academic, medical and dental institutions in the Middle East, Indonesia, and currently teaching in North Carolina, United States

My journey embodies an unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of dental and maxillofacial surgery. I have a dedication to education, research, and innovative techniques continues to shape the field, benefiting both patients and the next generation of dental professionals



Peter Raymond Kibanyi, MS, MPH

I'm born in Uganda, but now an American citizen
I speak two languages fluently - Luganda & English
I'm currently a co-Principal investigator on a malaria prevention research project in Uganda under the Center of Private Health and Social Adjustment (CEPRIHESA) since 2018. I also own a digital marketing company in Uganda called KOSMA I currently reside between Chicago, IL and Uganda. I enjoy travelling, farming and serving others.



**Katelyn Morgan, M.P. P., M.P. H.
(she/her/hers)**

Katelyn Morgan is a global health professional with a decade of experience providing project management leadership and technical assistance in support of United States Government-funded health programs. She is passionate about community engagement and health systems resilience in the face of large-scale public health emergencies and emerging diseases.

She currently serves as a Supply Chain Vaccine Technical Advisor for the COVID-19 Response Team at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and supports country readiness to receive COVID-19 vaccines, implement campaigns, and integrate COVID-19 vaccination into routine immunization and primary healthcare. Previously, Katelyn worked as a Supply Chain Advisor within USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS, supporting the delivery of HIV/AIDS commodities and supply chain systems strengthening efforts in several countries, including Botswana, Eswatini, and Zambia.

Prior to joining USAID, she contributed to HIV/AIDS commodity stock data visibility as a Supply Chain Analyst with a USAID implementing partner, aggregating and analyzing global product transitions. Katelyn previously trained Neglected Tropical Disease Program Managers on best supply chain management practices in Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Ghana.

She holds a Master of Public Policy from Stony Brook University and a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from The George Washington University and is an alumnus of The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. Her areas of interest are program implementation, health systems strengthening, emergency response, and global health security.



Kathleen Newton, MHA

Kathleen is Principal at Alfred Newton and Associates. She is a purpose-driven, accountable, executive with 20+ years of management consulting experience. She is passionate about people, healthcare, and change. Her areas of focus are Healthcare Information Technology, Strategic Operations, and Business Transformation. She is entrusted to create and successfully implement complex, integrated plans which

are aligned with strategic growth initiatives for her clients.

As a highly motivated leader, value creator, and executive advisor; Kathleen develops and delivers innovative strategies, and provides operational leadership of enterprise-wide growth, stabilization, and other mission-critical transformation initiatives, for hospitals, health systems, and healthcare organizations nation-wide. She delivers thoughtful advice, rigorous planning, and strategic guidance.

Having curated an eclectic array of skills, knowledge, and experiences which inform her execution of client engagements. When assisting clients, she seeks to deploy scalable solutions at the intersection of process transformation, operational excellence, patient value, and physician/employee impacts. Kathleen is recognized as a proven talent in establishing, growing and managing sustained strategic client relationships, and developing and leading high performing teams.

When not busy transforming healthcare, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, gardening, preparing (and eating) great food, enjoying great wine and wonderful music.



Catherine Pak MPP, MPH

Catherine Pak is a project leader with a track record of driving both technical impact and business performance. She brings technical expertise in health research and data analytics, monitoring & evaluation, and health systems strengthening. She brings business leadership in program management and enterprise health information systems development and integration—across the sectors of Public Health and Governance.

Ms. Pak’s leadership experience is grounded in 20+ years in management consulting providing evidence-based solutions. She has led the full lifecycle of inter-enterprise-level health information systems, mobile health technology innovation and deployment, and strategy/policy implementation to maximize organizational resources and achieve impact in complex stakeholder settings in the U.S., Africa and Asia.

Ms. Pak is currently working to attain her Doctorate of Public Health at the Milken Institute and has earned a Master of Public Policy from the Schar School of Public Policy and a Master of Public Health at the Milken Institute.



Jasmine Price, MHA

Jasmine Price is a Public Health Analyst/Project Officer in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). In this role, she manages approximately \$30M within the Division of Nursing and Public Health (DNPH). These programs focus on creating a pipeline of Registered Nurses and Preceptors in efforts to develop and increase the nursing workforce and providing nursing educational opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Prior

to joining DNPH, Jasmine served as a Management Analyst for the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (NHSC-LRP) which provides loan enhancement to primary medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health care providers in exchange for clinical services to these medically underserved areas. Additionally, Jasmine supported a congressional mandated Zika program for NHSC. Jasmine holds a Bachelor's Degree in Health Administration and Policy from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a Masters of Health Administration from the George Washington University.



**Stefan Ruehm MD, MBA, MPH
(He/Him/His)**

I have a broad background in radiology and cardiology, with advanced training and expertise in cardiovascular MR and CT imaging. I have authored several seminal publications on MR Imaging technology including first and senior author articles in *Circulation*, *JAMA* and *The Lancet*. I have pioneered novel imaging applications such as whole body MR angiography, dark lumen MR colonography, interstitial Gadolinium-based MR lymphography, direct intravenous MR venography and the early detection of atherosclerotic plaque using ultrasmall iron oxide particles. I am an educator and busy clinical practitioner of radiology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) specializing in cardiovascular imaging and emergency room radiology.

As PI or co-investigator on several university-, industry- and NIH-funded grants, I laid the groundwork for further research in the field of cardiovascular imaging including the development and optimization of cardiovascular imaging protocols tailored to current clinical demands and technical feasibility in the current healthcare environment. I have strong ties with both academic and non-academic hospital and community providers that will make it possible to recruit patients for research projects and track participants over time. In addition, my training in business administration (MBA) and public health (MPH) allows me to successfully plan and execute research projects including staffing, research administration and budgeting. As a result of my experience with previous NIH, university and industry sponsored research projects, I am used to collaborating with other researchers across various disciplines as evident by multiple peer-reviewed publications over an extended field of disciplines. I have a strong interest in utilizing my skills to lead organizational change for innovative concepts in healthcare which benefit individual and population health. I am aware of the importance of frequent communication among collaboration partners and of constructing realistic plan, timeline, and budget.



Carissa Russo MPH, BSHA, CRS, LPN

Ms. Carissa Russo is a skilled project manager with 10 years of experience across different industries within healthcare. She has over 5 years of experience supporting quality improvement initiatives. This work includes managing healthcare quality-related measures and delivering systematic changes to execute improved performance. Currently, she serves as a consultant for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), working on a Suicide Prevention project. Previously she worked for the VA managing efforts to promote the health and well-being of family caregivers who care for our nation's Veterans, through education, resources, support, and services. In her previous work, she led a quality improvement department supporting correctional healthcare for the Department of Corrections (DOC) and supported a government business division (GBD) at Anthem working

directly with aging and disabled Medicaid members in need of waiver services to receive personal care services and respite care services in the community. Additionally, she works with local coalitions to support legislative efforts surrounding substance abuse prevention. In her personal life, Ms. Russo is a mother to three children. Her experiences as a mother and a nurse have driven her to get involved in advocacy work to promote communities of healthy youth.



Clara Jebet Sei, MPH

Clara is a passionate researcher with over 20 years of biopharmaceutical industry experience in basic research and clinical development and directs interdisciplinary cross-functional cross-site teams and projects locally, nationally, and globally. As Vice President and Head Technology Transfer Officer, she leads the vaccine and antibody (therapeutics) development program at a Maryland-based company (www.lhnvd.com) addressing human and animal public health concerns worldwide. Clara directs projects geared toward prevention, prediction, detection, surveillance, epidemiology, control, and treatment of infectious diseases using an integrated, unifying

One Health approach. She oversees the establishment of programs, policies, practices, laboratory facilities, manage logistic operations, personnel, creative innovation including peer-reviewed publications and patents, scientific expertise, study design, regulatory compliance, and strategic support of drug discovery and clinical programs. In addition, she has a proven track record with extensive experience in directing multiple diverse collaborations while working with world-class researchers and clinicians from public (government/military) and private entities (biotech/pharma/institutions) and manages the administration and execution of agreements such as NDAs, MTAs, and CRADAs, etc. She is also a member of IDSA, ISIRV, ESCMID, The Union etc., among other infectious disease societies. Originally from Nairobi, Kenya, Clara has lived and worked in the USA for 25 years and has held various industry leadership positions. She graduated with a B.Sc. in Biology and Pre-medicine from Messiah University, Pennsylvania, USA, obtained a Master's degree in Public Health from The George Washington University, Milken Institute School of Public Health, Washington, D.C., and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Public Health degree at The George Washington University, Milken Institute School of Public Health, Washington, D.C. Clara's broad experience in biopharmaceutical/biotechnology (R&D, QC, Clinical trials - Phase 1, 2, 2b/3 etc.) lends valuable contribution and dedication to the advancement of public health and medicine through implementation of new molecular tools to build better diagnostics, development of safer and more effective vaccines, and improvement of immunologic therapeutics. Driven by her passion for global health, Clara remains focused primarily on confronting today's biggest challenges in public health and improving health outcomes by pursuing effective, innovative, and sustainable solutions that create healthier safer communities across the world and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. She aims to lead, promote, and direct the implementation of effective public health policies, programs, and practices that bring about accountability, fiscal responsibility, and equity in public health.



Lindsey Skripka MBS, MPH

Lindsey Skripka is the Senior Director of Programming and Operations for Meals on Wheels of Northeastern Pennsylvania, located in Scranton, PA. Lindsey earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Neuroscience from the University of Scranton in 2015. Her Master of Science degree was conferred by Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine in 2017, and she has earned her Master of Public Health degree from George Washington University in 2020. Lindsey has worked for Meals on Wheels since 2017, and is responsible for the oversight and management of all programming operations and community health initiatives for the non-profit agency. Additionally, she acts as a liaison between Meals on Wheels of NEPA, partners of the agency, and community organizations.

Lindsey is passionate about community programming that addresses the unmet needs of the older adult population. Her professional goal is to lead her non-profit agency as an Executive Director into the future of community health and social service programming. Lindsey is a devoted animal lover, she is a regular volunteer at Blue Chip Farm Animal Refuge. When not at work or the animal shelter, Lindsey is spending time with her husband, family and three cats. Her hobbies include reading, travelling, knitting, and antique furniture refurbishment. Lindsey is committed to her personal philosophy of community stewardship and helping those in need.



Jessica Stewart, MHA, MPH

Jessica is a dynamic and ambitious leader in healthcare operations, gradually gaining more knowledge and experience as she achieved her various degrees. As the eldest of 4 children, Pamela and David's daughter has always found joy and strength in tackling new challenges. After earning her Bachelor of Science from Georgia State University in 2012, Jessica completed both a Masters in Health Administration and a Masters in Public Health, with the ambition of receiving her Doctorate of Public Health from George Washington University.

Throughout her educational journey, Jessica worked for multiple outpatient clinics, urgent cares and academic health systems, allowing her to gain an inside look into healthcare organizations' triumphs and struggles firsthand. Driven by a passion for stewardship and a patient-centric mindset, this invaluable experience has been the base of Jessica's success so far. She looks forward to using her knowledge to analyze the threats posed to different communities around the globe while devising ways to mitigate public health problems. With dedication to public health reform at heart, Jessica intends on making tremendous impacts on public health leadership, management, and governance.



Luis Valdez-Lopez, MPH
(He/Him/His)

Luis Valdez is a Health Science Policy Analyst within the Office of National Autism Coordination at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH/NIH). Prior to joining NIH, Mr. Valdez worked for the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)'s Maternal and Child Health technical assistance team and UCEDD Resource Center. Mr. Valdez also recently completed a fellowship with the Vermont Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Program as a Public Health Fellow. Mr. Valdez holds a bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from the University of Maryland, College Park and a Master's of Public Health from the George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health.



Grace Vixama, MPH, CHES

Grace Vixama, MPH, CHES, is an active-duty Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and currently works as a Health Communication Specialist for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In this role, she oversees the creation and dissemination of health communication products within her branch. She assists with identifying and segmenting target

audiences to ensure the wider spread of NIOSH research. In addition, she ensures that all communication products are written in plain language and accessible to the intended audience. Prior to joining NIOSH, Grace worked as a Public Health Advisor within CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine. She was part of the surge task force assigned to one of CDC's Quarantine Stations to conduct surveillance and screen incoming travelers during the COVID-19 pandemic. There she also implemented the Global Testing and Vaccination Orders to ensure testing and vaccination compliance to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Grace chose a career in public health because she saw firsthand the consequences health disparities imposed on underserved and underprivileged populations. She recognized the need for evidence-based and targeted interventions designed to improve access to health care. As a USPHS officer Grace has dedicated her career to improving the health of the nation by empowering others to choose and lead a healthier lifestyle. Grace is excited to be a part of the GWU's DrPH program. She is confident that this program will allow her to effectively lead and make significant contributions in public health while serving her country.

In her spare time, Grace loves to run, hike, and spend time with her family and friends.

Grace holds a Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion from St. Francis College and an MPH from George Washington University. She is also a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES).



Katarzyna Wilczek, MPH

Katarzyna “Kasia” Wilczek lives in Flint, Michigan and is currently on a career break, taking care of her son in his first years but continuing to advance public health through policy advocacy. She volunteers with the Hawai‘i Sexual and Gender Minority Workgroup, specifically working with the Policy at All Levels subgroup, drafting legislation and submitting testimony in support of policies that impact health equity. She previously worked as a Public Health

Supervisor at the Genesee County Health Department, managing locally and federally funded maternal and child health programs, including Healthy Start. She worked to establish the Community Action Network (CAN) to address specific lived experiences and social determinants of health impacting Healthy Start families to minimize health and social disparities and improve health equity and social justice.

Kasia has nearly 10 years of experience in a variety of research settings, from bench research and clinical manufacturing to clinical and community-based participatory research. She holds an MPH from the George Washington University and a BA in English and Molecular and Cellular Biology with an emphasis in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of California, Berkeley. She has a passion for community and moving data to action to create a more equitable world. In her free time, she enjoys being active with her family and reading.



Logan Williams, MPH

Logan Williams is the Project Director for the StrokeNet Thrombectomy Endovascular Platform within the National Data Management Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. She earned her MPH degree from George Washington University in 2017 after completing her undergraduate education double-majoring in Neuroscience and Chemistry from Baldwin Wallace University. She has since completed the Clinical and Translational Research Ethics Fellowship Program at the Medical University of South Carolina and served as a member on the Education Committee for Society for Clinical Trials since 2020.

Logan joined the Department of Public Health Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina in 2017 and has assisted in the startup of nearly twenty clinical research trials and has provided oversight for project and data management activities worldwide. Her experience covers phase I-III protocols including multi-site, international, industry and federally funded, exception from informed consent trials covering acute stroke, stroke prevention, stroke recovery, lupus, and pediatric sickle cell anemia. She has years of experience working with several branches of the NIH including NINDS, NIAID, and NHLBI.

In 2018, Logan began travelling annually to the Philippines on a medical mission trip with Helping Hands Medical Missions. The goal of this mission is to provide surgical, dental, optical, and general healthcare services to communities that otherwise have zero access to such care, treatment, or attention. Serving in these missions opened Logan's eyes to the poverty, illness, and overall lack of resources in the developing world and ignited her interest in improving healthcare globally. Logan plans to focus her efforts on program implementation that is both impactful and sustainable.



LT Kayla DeVault de Wendt, EI, MS, MPH/CPH, MDiv

(Shawnee/Anishinaabe; she/hers)

is a Commissioned Officer with the US Public Health Service, presently detailed with the National Park Service but having recently served for the Indian Health Services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her main duties are as a certified engineer and as a multilingual translator, but she also works as an investigative journalist and Indigenous Studies professor on the side. Kayla is a board member with the National Peace Academy, an AISES Sequoyah Fellow, a past youth delegate with SustainUS (COP22 and World Bank Annual Meetings), a delegate for the U.S. Human Rights Network in Geneva, a member of SACNAS, ASCE, and SAME, a national speaker for various organizations including AMSUS, and a co-author of the EPA's first-ever report on climate and youth inclusion through the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council Climate Change Youth Working

Group. She volunteers with various groups including Engineers Without Borders, the Unitarian Universalist School of Social Justice, No More Deaths, and as a lifeguard. A multi-sport student athlete, Kayla is also a Team USA inline hockey gold medalist (earned in China), her younger brother also being a bronze medalist (earned in Colombia) for the men's team. Her various sports have also brought her into bouldering and trail running as well as advocacy for tribal management of ancestral lands, changing names of set climbing routes, meaningful acknowledgment, and the intersection of public health with epistemologies, culture, housing, sustainability, and policy.



Emily Wood, MPH

Emily H. Wood, MPH serves as the Senior Manager of Research Operations for the Partnerships to Advance Cancer Care group led by Dr. Manali Patel at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Ms. Wood obtained her Master’s Degree in Public Health from the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University. She has been a project manager and health services research professional at the Stanford School of Medicine since 2021 in the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health and the Department of Medicine, Division of Oncology. Prior to joining Stanford, Ms. Wood served at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) David Geffen School of Medicine and the Transplant Research Education Center. Her work has centered around

community-engaged research to create and test patient education and behavior change interventions through multi-site, multi-level randomized controlled trials. She is devoted to projects advancing health equity, access to precision medicine cancer care, and expanding culturally relevant delivery models to engage and activate diverse patient populations, community health workers models, and scalable technology-based approaches.



**Barbie Zabielski, MPH
(she/her)**

Barbie Zabielski received a Master of Public Health (MPH) from George Washington University (GW) in 2017 and spent the next three years serving as Project Manager for New River Health District's Empowered Options program, a sexual and reproductive health intervention she designed that provides education and clinical family planning services to women incarcerated at New

River Valley Regional Jail in rural Appalachian Virginia. In 2020, Barbie moved to Kazakhstan, where she served remotely as Deputy Director of Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition (VHRC), a nonprofit that provides comprehensive harm reduction services to people who use drugs (PWUD) in Appalachian Southwest Virginia. In summer 2023, Barbie left VHRC to enroll in the online Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) program at GW and accepted a position as Program Analyst for Minority AIDS Support Services (MASS), a Tidewater-area nonprofit that provides various services to people at high risk for and living with HIV/AIDS. MASS is a Black-led organization that focuses on serving racial and ethnic minorities, sexual and gender minorities, sex workers, justice-involved individuals, unhoused individuals, and PWUD. Barbie has expertise in sexual health, harm reduction, substance use disorder treatment, and hepatitis C treatment and research experience related to sexual health among incarcerated women. She is committed to improving health among sexual and gender minorities, underserved women, and PWUD. She currently lives in Astana, Kazakhstan, with her husband, three dogs, and four cats and spends her spare time exercising, walking her dogs, and helping local street animals.