

# Health Equity Team Bios

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4/5/2019



**Donna Elliott** has been the Executive Director of Health Net Gaston since 2010. She has spent the majority of her career working with others to make communities equitable places for all. Health Net Gaston is a collaborative care network providing healthcare access and resources to low-income uninsured people in Gaston County, NC. Additionally, Ms. Elliott oversees development, outreach, enrollment, and community engagement activities for Gaston Family Health Services, a federally qualified health center whose service area encompasses six counties in central North Carolina. The combination of these roles gives her a unique perspective on community needs and resources. Previously, Ms. Elliott served low-income communities through her work at a job readiness center and at a summer learning enrichment organization.

Ms. Elliott has a B.A. in English from Meredith College and certification as a Facilitative Leader. She serves as Board Chair of Care Share Health Alliance and is a Board Member of The Gastonia Rotary Club and the Rotary Community Garden. She lives in Gastonia, NC with her husband Claudio Fuente.



**Patricia Massey** is a Supervisor in the Child Protective Services Department of Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree (Psychology) from Appalachian State University. In February, she will mark 30 years in the health care field. Patricia has worked with both children and adults with various mental health diagnoses. Patricia enjoys her current unit because they are hard workers and are often called upon to receive some of the more serious cases. Patricia enjoys the outdoors, traveling and spending time with her family. Patricia also enjoys listening to Spanish oriented music because she states it relaxes her.



**Tara Knight** is a Health Education Coordinator with Gaston County Health and Human Services, where she works with Tobacco Free Gaston whose mission is to "Reduce the usage of, and exposure to, tobacco products through education, advocacy and outreach". Tara also works on opioid prevention strategies through media and design in the Gaston County community. Tara is a resident of Charlotte, North Carolina but is native to Gaston County. Spending her last seven years with Atrium Health- she is excited and passionate about being back to serve the community in which she was raised. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two dogs, Sunni and Buck, camping and home improvement projects.



**Carol Cecus McManus** is a Chief Court Counselor with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice for Judicial District 27 [serving Gaston, Lincoln and Cleveland County]. She received two (2) Bachelor of Science degrees in Criminal Justice and Social Work from East Carolina University. While working with the Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice she earned a Masters in Human Resource Management from Keller Graduate School of Management. Ms. McManus began her career of serving the youth of North Carolina in 1985. Her professional experience includes work with Cumberland Psychiatric Hospital, Lutheran Family Services, North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, North Carolina Division of Youth Services and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice. Outside of work Ms. McManus is a member of the North State Law Enforcement Officers Association and vice-chair of the Gaston County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. She also serves as Director of the Christian Education Department of Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, Gastonia, North Carolina. In her spare time, Ms. McManus enjoys singing on the church choir and interior decorating. She currently resides in Ranlo, North Carolina.



**Emily Wilson** is the Senior Manager of Community Engagement and Corporate Responsibility at Atrium Health. She believes that companies have a responsibility to give back to the communities they serve and lives this out by leading community involvement and community health strategies. Emily is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill. She is a past participant in Leadership Gaston and Atrium Health's MPWRS women's mentorship program. She is a member of Charlotte Community Affairs Professionals, advisory board member City of Belmont Parks and Recreation, and PTO board member at Page Primary School. Emily is also a certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor.

In her spare time, she loves to spend time with her husband Jonathan, two sons-Browning and Asher, and her two dogs, Abner and Sunny. She enjoys reading, running, skiing, spending time outdoors, and cheering on Carolina basketball!!



**Lisa Clement-Bryant**, a registered nurse, is the Director of Employer Clinical Services at CaroMont Health. In her role, she is charged with partnering with clinical leadership teams to create innovative, collaborative and sustainable employer programming to the community at large. At the heart of her desire to increase the self-efficacy of those dealing with chronic conditions is her background as a certified diabetes educator, which exposed her to health inequities suffered by those she served. Her mantra is “a woman passionate about family, friends and the health of the whole world.” Lisa received her Master’s Degree in Nursing- Leadership and Management from Walden University and holds various chronic care certifications.



[Javonda Adams](#) was born in Charlotte, North Carolina and raised in Clover, South Carolina. Javonda studied at Gallaudet University for a short time. In May she will graduate from Gaston County Community College with an Associate's degree in Health and Human Services. Javonda is an active member in the deaf community. One of her most recent efforts was working with the local office for the deaf and hard of hearing to support an event for the deaf community to connect and build relationships with the Gastonia Police Department. Javonda lives with her husband and two children. She also has one stepson. In her spare time Javonda enjoys reading books and watching movies.



[Susan Kresmeyer](#) has worked in women's health nursing for 30 years and has worked as a Certified Nurse Midwife with the Gaston County Health Department for the past 22 years. She is deeply committed to public health and concerned about the inequity of access to care in our country. Her particular passion is the concept of empowering women to find their own best path to health and wellness, and to be able to make decisions that have a positive impact on their own and their families' lives.



[Sandie Rudisill](#) is the Health Education Coordinator for Gaston County Schools. Her previous role was teaching Health and Physical Education at Highland School of Technology. She has been teaching for fifteen years, including ten years at the middle school level and five years at the high school level. She has coached basketball, softball, and volleyball. This year the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have funded the Program PS18-1807 (“Program 1807”) grant to improve the health and well-being of our students to reduce HIV, STD, teen pregnancy, and related risk behaviors among middle and high school students. She will be working with middle and high schools assisting teachers in curriculum and organizational goals by providing coaching services system-wide in response to sexual health education, sexual health services, and safe and supportive environment strategies. She hopes to influence and motivate health teachers to achieve these goals and objectives. Sandie spends all her free time with her four year old son.



[Debra Diane Kinley](#), RN, BSN, MS, is a Public Health Nurse II employed by the Gaston County Department of Health and Social Services. She is one of the charge nurses for Family Planning and the Teen Wellness Center. She has been employed in the HealthCare Field for over twenty four years as a Registered Nurse. She attended East Tennessee State University where she received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing with a Minor in Business/Accounting. In 2000 she also received a Master's in Science Management Degree from Troy State University at Montgomery Alabama. She is West Virginia native who became a North Carolina transplant in the early '80's, where she met her husband Wayne. They have three boys, Anthony who sadly passed in 2009 at the age of 29, Christopher who is 34 and doing well, and Austin 16 who has Special Needs (Autism). When Debra has free time, she loves spending time with her family, gardening, home improvement projects and relaxing at the beach.



**Trevolia F. Hill** is a former Credit/Collection Manager with Sears Company for 19 years and retired Credit/Collection Manager for Belk/GE companies for a total of 16years. She graduated from Hunter Huss High School. She studied Business Administration at Gaston College, Dallas, NC. She is known for being a motivator, trainer and a team player. She is a former member of Credit Professionals of America. She is currently a member of the Highland Neighborhood Association.

Since retiring, Trevolia has devoted a large amount of her time to community work. She is currently in the Gastonia School System as a mentor at Wood Hill Elementary School. She also will be helping with their after school program. She serves on a committee that is responsible for planning, scheduling and implementing Women's Spiritual Retreats at church. She has volunteered at the local Cancer Center office in Gastonia. Trevolia's experience in these different areas has brought her in contact with many people of diverse groups. She continues to display her passion to help and inform people of any known resources.



**Steve Eaton** is the Public Health Director for the Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services. Steve is from Hickory, North Carolina and holds a Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from East Carolina University, a graduate certificate in Public Health Leadership from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a certificate in Non-Profit Management from Duke University. He joined the former Gaston County Health Department in 2011 as the Assistant Health Director. Earlier in his career, Steve was the executive director for two North Carolina Smart Start agencies and for the Early Head Start program of Alexander County. He has experience in government accounting, community assessment, strategic planning, board development, appreciative inquiry, and collective impact. He serves on the UNCC School of Public Health Advisory board, the Gaston County Alliance for Children and Youth board, the Gaston County School Health Advisory Council, the HealthNet Gaston board, and serves on the executive committee for the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors as a regional chairman.



**Diana Willman** is the Teen Parenting Program (TPP) Coordinator with the Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), where she has worked for eight years. In her work as TPP Coordinator, she encourages and supports teen moms to reach their goals, and connects them with local resources. Diana also facilitates the Parents Matter! Program in the Latinx community. This program raises parents' awareness about the sexual risks teens face, and highlights the importance of parent involvement and communication. Diana is currently a member of the DHHS Cultural committee, which strives to maintain and improve the culture of the Gaston County Health and Human Services. Prior to working with the county she was a Spanish liaison for Caldwell County and Gaston County Schools. Outside of work, Diana has a passion for working with families to strengthen their communication and interactions and is working to become a certified family coach. Diana is originally from Colombia, South America and her first language is Spanish. She has enjoyed living in the US for 18 years. Diana loves to spend her free time with her two kids, and their many sports and activities. When she is not at the soccer field with the family, she enjoys crafting and decorating.



**Marcus Cyprian** is the Horticulture Program Assistant at Gaston County Cooperative Extension. His main responsibility is coordinating the School Garden Program for 3rd grade students in the county. He is an alumnus of NC A&T State University and Johnson & Wales University where he graduated with a degree in Culinary Arts. Marcus enjoys traveling, sports and fishing. He is a native of Shelby NC but has lived in Gaston County for the past 10 years.



**Randi Gates** is a certified planner with the City of Gastonia. She has over thirteen years of transportation and connectivity planning experience. Throughout her career, Randi has spent six years with the Carolina Thread Trail, was a Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Manager for a private consulting firm, and has been staff to the City of Gastonia and Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO) for over five years (two separate stints). Randi's work includes the administration, management, and implementation of grant programs through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), the preparation of detailed transportation studies and transportation plans, including the most recent update to the GCLMPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the development of projects for NCDOT's prioritization process, and the creation of bicycle, pedestrian and/or greenway plans for various communities in NC. Randi is a 2018 graduate of Leadership Gaston where she now sits on the Advisory Board and is the current Chair of the Gaston Together Healthcare Commission's Health in All Policies Workgroup. Randi is married to Joe Gates who is the Zoning Administrator for the City of Gastonia and they have two handsome little boys.



**Christie Williams** is the Administrative Assistant to the Public Health Director of Gaston County Health & Human Services. In this position, Christie provides administrative assistance for the Public Health Director and members of Public Health Management Team. She serves as the primary contact for external offices and assists on special projects such as onboarding new staff, Accreditation, Leadership Academy, EpiTeam, Wellness and Culture Committees. Christie provides technical and logistical support for multiple projects, meetings, and conferences. Christie joined Gaston County DHHS in 2013. Prior to her position at DHHS she served as an administrative assistant at a local nonprofit and as a Team Assistant at McKinsey and Company Consulting Firm.



[Consuelo Keenen](#) is an Interpreter with Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services. She was born in Havana, Cuba and was raised as a Jersey Girl with Latin seasoning. For over 35 years, she has been married to a wonderful man with whom she shares two handsome sons, two stunning daughters-in-law, four awesome grandbabies, and two doggies who think they run the place. Consuelo has also worked as a secretary, a magazine editor for TRUE ROMANCE, and an author of several sweet romance and Christian novels and novellas. It has been her pleasure to be part of a team of Spanish interpreters at the Health Department. Consuelo is also a foodie, but she does that for free.



[Alyssa Mouton](#) is a Health Education Supervisor with Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services. She is passionate about building “win-win” partnerships to promote health equity through a Health in All Policies lens. Mouton earned her Bachelor of Arts in Social Relations from Michigan State University, and received master’s degrees in public health and public policy from the University of Michigan. Prior to moving to North Carolina, she worked with the 1000+ OBGYN Project at the University of Michigan Health System to improve maternal and neonatal health in Sub-saharan Africa, and served in the Peace Corps as a Health Extension Agent in Mali, W. Africa from 2008-2010. Outside of work, she enjoys shopping at farmers markets for ingredients to cook healthy meals.



[Brittain Kenney](#) is the Public Information Officer for the Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services. Brittain is originally from Statesville, NC and has her B.A. in Journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her Master of Public Health degree through the Public Health Leadership Program at UNC's Gillings School of Global Public Health. She has worked for the Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services (and previously for Gaston County Health Department) since 2007, primarily as a Health Education Coordinator. Most of her work has focused on HIV and STD prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, and increasing access to health services for young people.



[Daughtry Hopper](#) is the Director of Community Impact and Resource Development for the United Way of Gaston County. In her role, she works to impact education, financial stability and health in the community while raising the funds needed to support programs and initiatives across Gaston County. She has extensive experience in fund development, public relations and marketing along with a vast understanding of the nonprofit sector. Previously, Daughtry spent more than eight years in various leadership roles with the American Red Cross and seven years as the Director of Marketing and Public Relations with the North Carolina Center for Applied Textile Technology. Daughtry is active as a volunteer with the Altrusa Club of Gastonia, currently serving as club president. She has also served on the Steering Committee for the Community Foundation's RUN since 2005. Daughtry completed the Duke University Certificate Program in Nonprofit Management in 2008. She received her bachelor's in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.



[Yvonne Boafu](#) is the Data Analyst for Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Yvonne is originally from Ghana, where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Geography and Resource Development with a minor in Information Studies. She earned a Master of Philosophy in Development Geography from the University of Oslo in Norway, Master of Science in Health Informatics and a Graduate Certificate in Community Health both from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Over the years through her education in Human geography, Public health and Data analysis, Yvonne has developed a lot of interest and passion in Health Outcome Research and strongly supports the use of innovative technology in health data, statistical and geospatial analysis. Over her time with Gaston County DHHS, Yvonne has facilitated the 2018 Gaston County Community Health Assessment Report and the 2018 Gaston County Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance Survey. She was privileged to be part of a team of four who represented North Carolina in a 2018 Round Table Discussions on Coordinating State & Local Opioid Data Frameworks and Response Efforts on October 25th and 26th 2018 in Washington, DC. Yvonne believes that health equity is a great health asset for both organizational and community's health.