

Amy Stringer Hessel, MSW



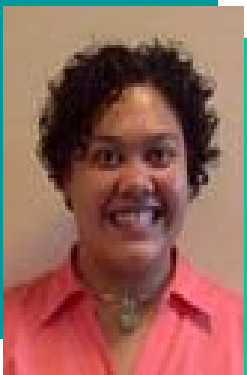
Since 2003, Amy Stringer Hessel has been a program officer with the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) in St. Louis. Ms. Stringer Hessel is the team leader of the Healthy & Active Communities Initiative that has invested \$15,000,000 towards active living/healthy eating in the state. She participates on the Missouri Council on Obesity and Nutrition which is working to implement Missouri's state obesity plan, and she is active with a St. Louis coalition committed to combating youth obesity. Prior to joining MFH, Ms. Stringer Hessel was director of community economic development for United Way of Greater St. Louis. In that position she managed numerous funding and asset development projects and programs. Stringer Hessel has a master's of social work from Washington University in St. Louis.

Sarah Kuester, MS, RD



Sarah Kuester, MS, RD, is a public health advisor with the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She began her work with the CDC in 1989 regarding its pediatric and pregnancy nutrition surveillance systems and chronic disease nutrition program efforts with state health departments. Since CDC began its funding support for the state Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Program in 2000 she has guided states in their program planning, implementation, and evaluation activities. Her responsibilities have included developing grant application and program guidance, monitoring state budgets, and providing consultation on a wide variety of issues state programs address.

Marjorie Paloma, MPH



Marjorie Paloma, M.P.H, is a program officer working in the areas of childhood obesity, public health, and tobacco control for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. As a member of the Childhood Obesity and Public Health teams, she brings a rich background and broad experience in program development and management, research and community organizing. Paloma also directs *Tobacco Policy Change: A Collaborative for Healthier Communities and States*, a national initiative which supports policy advocacy in communities most affected by public health threats. Prior to joining the Foundation in July 2004, Paloma managed the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line at the University of Wisconsin-Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention. In this capacity, she designed and implemented innovative ideas to improve promotion, access to, and utilization of telephone-based services to help people quit tobacco use. Previously, as project director of a South Bronx community-based organization, Paloma provided leadership and coordination in advocating for access to quality and sensitive health care for the borough's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

Paloma received an M.P.H. in sociomedical sciences from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, and a B.A. in biology from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

Marc Manley, M.D., M.P.H.



Dr. Marc Manley guides Blue Cross' efforts to improve health across populations, using prevention, quality improvement, and regulatory approaches. He is vice president and medical director, population health and has overall responsibility for the Health Care Improvement department and the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. Health Care Improvement seeks to improve processes and outcomes and by enhancing relationships with members and employers.

As head of the Center for Prevention, Dr. Manley oversees Prevention Minnesota, Blue Cross' ten-year initiative to improve the health of all Minnesotans by significantly reducing tobacco use and other major risk factors for heart disease and cancer.

Blue Cross was the first health care plan in the nation to win a legal battle against the tobacco industry. Funded by the settlement from that lawsuit, Prevention Minnesota works to reduce tobacco use, reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, increase physical activity, and increase healthy nutrition for all Minnesotans, not just Blue Cross members.

Dr. Manley is an internationally recognized expert on tobacco use and cessation. Prior to joining Blue Cross in 1999 as executive director of the Center for Tobacco Reduction and Health Improvement (since renamed the Center for Prevention), he was chief of the Public Health Applications Research Branch at the National Cancer Institute, directing a multi-million-dollar program of tobacco control research. He also directed the American Stop Smoking Intervention Study, which supported comprehensive tobacco control programs in 17 states.

He has published widely on community programs to improve health and on the role of clinicians in disease prevention. For his work in tobacco control, Dr. Manley has received awards from both the U.S. Surgeon General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Manley received his medical degree from the University of Washington, and a master of public health degree from Johns Hopkins University.

Liz Schwarte, MPH



Liz Schwarte has extensive experience in the health and social service sectors as a program manager and research associate. At Samuels & Associates, Ms. Schwarte is currently involved in a variety of evaluation design, implementation, and reporting activities for the following initiatives: The California Endowment's Healthy Eating Active Communities (HEAC) program, the Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program (CCROPP) and strategic planning for The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation in the area of Alzheimer's disease and caregiving.

Ms. Schwarte's previous projects at S&A include evaluation technical assistance for the Health Funders Partnership of Orange County Community Advocacy Initiative and Kaiser Permanente's Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) program, development of school nutrition policy case studies, logic model development for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Childhood Nutrition and Physical Activity Taskforce, and an evaluation of the UC Berkeley doctoral public health program. Liz managed the Public Health Departments and Obesity Prevention Survey and the Senior Nutrition Evaluation.

Previously, as Program Manager at the Center for Health Leadership & Practice, Public Health Institute, Ms. Schwarte managed the Los Angeles Public Health Leadership Institute, the State Health Directors Executive Mentoring and Consultation Program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the CDC/UC Public Health Leadership Institute, and the Public Health Leadership Society. At Education Programs Associates, she developed and coordinated courses and conferences on a variety of health topics, provided management support to the Health Improvement Initiative, and managed the Capacity Building in the Central Valley project (both funded by The California Wellness Foundation). Ms. Schwarte received her MPH from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.