



## Presenting

### Distinguished Speakers



**Julie Nelson** is the Founding Director of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, Senior Vice President at the new Race Forward, and a Senior Fellow with the Haas Institute for and Fair and Inclusive Society (HIFIS) at the University of California, Berkeley. Nelson is the former Director of the Seattle Office for Civil Rights where she served eight years, providing both vision and hands-on work to Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative. She also served in other government positions including the City of Seattle Human Services Department,

Administrative Services and Public Utilities, Housing and Urban Development, and Pima County Community Services in Tucson, Arizona.



**Dena Diorio, MBA**, is the Mecklenburg County manager. She is responsible for executing the policy decisions of the Board of County Commissioners and leading the County organization by overseeing the administration of County departments. She also advises the Board on operational and financial matters, services and other issues, and submits an annual operating and capital budget for the Board's consideration.

Dena joined Mecklenburg County in 2007 as director of the Department of Financial Services. In 2013, she was promoted to assistant county manager for fiscal control, policies and standards compliance where she provided executive management oversight of the County's Financial Services Department (comprising Central Finance, Human Services Finance, and the Office of Tax Collector) as well as MECKLINK Finance and the Assessor's Office.

Raised in Westchester County, New York, Dena started her career in New York City. Later, she took jobs in Stamford and Danbury, Connecticut until moving to Mecklenburg County.

Dena earned her B.S. in social services from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. She earned a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University.



**Anisha Gandhi, PhD, MPH**, is the Acting Assistant Commissioner for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Bureau of HIV, where she oversees New York City's response to the HIV epidemic. She also serves as the Bureau of HIV's inaugural Director of Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiatives, leading efforts to embed a racial equity lens across research, programmatic, capacity building, and evaluation activities, and to advance workforce equity. As an infectious disease epidemiologist and public health

practitioner, she has developed and implemented innovative programs and research initiatives to identify and address inequities in HIV and STI testing, prevention, and care among Black, Latino, immigrant, and LGBTQ+ communities and among individuals engaged in sex work. During her time at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, she has held multiple leadership roles in Race to Justice, the agency's unifying equity-centered internal reform initiative, which seeks to minimize racial disparities in health citywide through transforming institutional priorities, policies, and practices.



**Sara Shoener, DrPH, MPH**, is the Special Policy Advisor for Equity in the New York City Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity. In this role, she oversees the implementation of [Executive Order 45](#), which promotes City agencies' data practices and organizational equity assessments to advance institutional racial and social equity. Previous to this, Sara has served in a variety of roles in NYC local government to support equity work, including with the Commission on Gender Equity, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, and the Department of Social Services. She earned her DrPH in Sociomedical Sciences and her MPH in Health Promotion from Columbia University's School of Public Health.



**Lenore Wyant** is an advocate, a prevention specialist and transformative leader with a desire to challenge and inspire systems and those working within systems to think strategically, engage collaboratively and plan creatively when becoming anti-racist. Her leadership and management experience was built on a foundation of hands-on, community-based, prevention and intervention work with youth and families. Prior to joining Gare 3-months ago, she previously served as Pennsylvania's Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and

Delinquency.

**This presentation is brought to you by The Anti-Racist Alliance, a movement for racial equity. We are an organizing collective of community organizers as well as human service practitioners and educators whose vision is to bring a clear and deliberate anti-racist structural power analysis to social service education and practice.**