

MEET THE PHE TEAM



Ericka Dawson

Interim Vice President of Digital and Community Impact

Ericka Dawson joined Peer Health Exchange (PHE) in July of 2018. During her time at PHE she has served as Director of Programs, Director of Strategic Growth, Sr. Director, Community Engagement, Assistant Vice President of Community Partnerships and currently serves as the Interim Vice President of Digital and Community Impact. This role is responsible for leading the design and execution of PHE's national partnership strategy while also spearheading the growth of PHE's digital health resource platform designed for youth. Her professional background includes strong expertise in strategic partnership development, program and grant management, digital strategy innovation, and cross-functional team leadership, with prior experience spanning Chicago-based community organizations and Fortune 500 corporations. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Governors State University and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Tennessee State University.



Cynthia Diaz

Director of School of Based Programs

Born and raised in Inglewood, CA, Cynthia's upbringing was deeply rooted in community empowerment. Her Masters in Public Health is a reflection of her desire to keep communities healthy with preventative and inclusive programs. At Peer Health Exchange, Cynthia supported near-peers implementing mental and sexual health curriculum through a variety of roles. She has dedicated her career working to build their skill and confidence with training, volunteer and fellowship management, and one to one coaching. She hopes to close the resource gap for youth health through advocacy, education, and hands-on collaboration. Cynthia continues to be a bridge between educational programs and community partners ensuring each gets what they need to thrive and flourish.



Ruby Melgoza

Senior Associate, Design & Development

Ruby Melgoza lives in NYC and has a decade of experience working in adolescent health education. Her passion for health education comes from a place of wanting to give young people the tools they need to make the best decision for their health. After spending years in the classroom teaching health educators and supporting health facilitators in the classroom in California and New York, she has stepped in curriculum and development work to use her experience to create asynchronous modules based on real world examples of working with young people. Outside of work you can find her eating her way through NYC and spending time with her friends and family.



Katie Marciniak

Youth Mental Health Associate

Katie Marciniak has been working with youth for over a decade, beginning in community organizing and later stepping into mental health advocacy as a teen. Her passion derived from navigating her own experiences with trauma and mental health. She brings energy, empathy, and a deep passion for connecting with young people. She is passionate about creating safe spaces where youth feel empowered, share openly, and step into leadership. Katie currently resides in Chicago and is a proud AmeriCorps alum. Outside of work, she enjoys exploring her Polish and Filipino heritage, diving into DIY projects, discovering new places, and volunteering at church.