Christopher M. Zivalich



Employment Experience:

Senior Manager - State Policy & Training, National Coalition of STD Directors; Nov. 2022 - present

- Spearhead NCSD's state sexual health policy implementation by supporting state coalitions, developing trainings, and providing policy support and technical assistance.
- Create toolkits for replication of successful sexual health policies and implementation protocols.
- Modify curriculum, facilitate recruitment, and provide key implementation and evaluation strategies for NCSD's Policy Academy, which empowers state and local health department staff to learn safe, effective policymaking skills through both legislative and non-legislative mechanisms.
- Track state legislation across 65 federally-funded STD prevention jurisdictions and analyze key trends.
- Partner with Federal Policy and Adolescent Health teammates to pursue multi-state research projects aimed at identifying best practices for equitable policies in sexual and reproductive health.

Director of Public Health Interventions, Colorado Health Network; July 2020 - Oct. 2022.

- Led, directed, and supervised staff implementing evidence-based, community-led programs designed to improve health outcomes and reduce inequities, including programs for older adults living with HIV, youth ages 15-24, and Latinx communities.
- Pursued innovative research projects in partnership with academic researchers including:
 - Securement of 3-year federal funding to pilot, implement, and refine an emerging strategy for older adults living with HIV as one of ten demonstration sites on a HRSA Project of National Significance
 - Partnership with the University of Denver on Mapping the PrEP Care Continuum, which examined HIV prevention barriers faced by men who have sex with men and transgender and non-binary individuals ages 18-29 using group model-building.
- Collaborated with non-traditional partners in HIV funding to expand and refine public health interventions, including the Denver Area Agency on Aging to link older adults living with HIV more robustly with aging service providers and the Colorado Sexual Health Initiative for youth exiting foster care.
- Implemented pilot phase of the organization's Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Initiative by collaborating with staff and consultants across six locations to identify gaps in training, policies, and equity culture for the organization's 130+ employees.

PrEP Program Manager, Colorado Health Network; Jan. 2017 - July 2020

- Managed comprehensive, statewide financial assistance program (PHIP) for individuals seeking PrEP as HIV prevention across Colorado.
- Built sustainable partnerships across both medical providers and community-based organizations to increase PrEP programmatic infrastructure.
- Maintained comprehensive knowledge of complex health care systems and structures that affect PrEP access, including Medicaid/Medicare, the Affordable Care Act, pharmaceutical rebate programs, and more.
- Executed referrals for Wyoming clients remotely, linking individuals to Hepatitis C and HIV services.
- Educated PrEP navigators at AIDS Service Organizations on streamlined assistance processes through synchronous, in-person trainings.

• Empowered clients to identify personal sexual health needs and narratives by applying harm reduction and sex-positive philosophies and practices.

Volunteer Experience:

Secretary, Denver LGBTQ Commission; June 2021 - present

- Serve on the Mayor of Denver's LGBTQ Commission through Human Rights and Community Partnerships.
- Advise on issues and policies relevant to Denver's LGBTO+ community.

Board Member, Colorado Option Advisory Board; July 2022 - present

Appointed by Colorado Governor Jared Polis to serve as an individual with experience in health equity on a
mandatory advisory board for the implementation of Colorado's standardized health plan, the Colorado
Option, which must be affordable and reduce racial inequities through network adequacy standards.

Co-Chair, 5280 Fast-Track Cities Taskforce; Nov. 2020 - present

- Collaborate with HIV medical providers and community advocates across five counties to develop strategies aimed toward achieving and maintaining global HIV treatment and prevention goals as established by the Fast-Track Cities Institute.
- Share power with community members living with HIV to establish representative anti-stigma campaigns centering science-based messages such as "Undetectable Equals Untransmittable."

Voting Member, State Drug Assistance Program (SDAP) Committee; Nov. 2017 - Nov. 2020

- Directly worked with state government, non-profits, and community advocates to allocate funding for medication assistance programs for people living with HIV and people at risk for HIV acquisition.
- Co-introduced and passed Retroactive Payment Policy in Dec 2018 to cover unexpected lab costs prior to client's enrollment in relevant assistance programs in an effort to promote equitable access.

Scholarship Committee Volunteer, The Alexander Foundation; Jan. 2021 - present

• Contribute annually to selection process for LGBTQ+ Coloradans attending institutions of higher education.

Adult Advocate, the Center on Colfax; Jan. 2015 - Feb. 2019

- Engaged youth ages 12-21 with activities, including art therapy, improv comedy, and drag workshops.
- Received comprehensive training on sexual health decision-making for LGBTQ+ adolescents, substance use risk reduction, and suicide and bullying prevention.
- Recipient, Adult Volunteer of the Year Award, November 2017.

Education:

Central European University: M.A. in Gender Studies

• Thesis: Becoming/Belonging: Negotiating Time and Sexual Citizenship in Poland

Ithaca College: B.A. in Journalism, Minors in German Language and Women's and Gender Studies

- Summa cum Laude
- Dean's Award, Roy H. Park School of Communications

Conferences, Presentations, and Publications:

Co-Presenter, American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Oct. 2021

• Identifying PrEP needs and solutions for YMSM and young transgender and nonbinary persons (YTNB) in Colorado using group model building

Presenter, Public Health in the Rockies, Aug. 2020

• Won't You Be My Neighbor? How Wyoming and Colorado Collaborated on HIV, PrEP, and Hepatitis C Linkage-to-Care

Presenter, Public Health in the Rockies, Aug. 2019

• PrEP Infrastructure in Colorado: Growing Capacity and Community

Poster Presenter, National Sexual Health Conference, July 2019

• PrEP Infrastructure in Colorado: Growing Capacity and Community

Author, PULSE Magazine, June 2013

• The Desire to Discover Gay Brains: Neuroscience After the HIV/AIDS Crisis

Certifications & Additional Skills:

- German Language (limited professional proficiency, conversational fluency)
- Proficient in day-to-day usage of Prezi, Mentimeter, Microsoft Word, Zoom, Excel, PowerPoint, and Canva
- Certified Zumba and Zumba Gold Instructor, 2019 present
- Certified Application Counselor, Connect for Health Colorado, 2017 2019