



Esmael López

Council Engagement Lead

Esmael López joins the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities on June 17, 2024. He leads community and Tribal engagement and outreach efforts, helping the Council build relationships with various partners and communities.

Esmael has spent most of his life organizing alongside youth, families, and communities of color to gain access to resources that improve community wellbeing. With a profound belief in the power of collective action, he is a dedicated community engagement specialist whose passion lies in supporting grassroots movements and community-based strategies.

Prior to joining the Council, Esmael worked as an Outreach Coordinator with the Northwest Justice Project. He engaged farmworkers and immigrant worker communities through legal support, employment rights education, and assistance in accessing personal protective equipment through the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to that, Esmael supported the Washington State Office of Equity Task Force and the Environmental Justice Task Force as their Community Engagement Coordinator. He served as the liaison for community-based organizations and the public for both task forces by building relationships.

Grounded in the principles of equity and empowerment, Esmael brings a wealth of experience in mobilizing resources, facilitating dialogue, and implementing effective strategies for positive change. He hopes his commitment to movement building inspires others to join in the journey towards a more inclusive and empowered society.



Gavin Rienne, MPH, PhD
Council Social Epidemiologist

Gavin Rienne joins the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities on June 17, 2024. He designs and conducts research, epidemiological analyses, and evaluation to support the Council's policy development and decision making.

Prior to joining the Council, Dr. Rienne worked as a Postdoctoral Scholar at the Center for Innovation in Public Health at University of Kentucky, where he designed epidemiologic studies to investigate children's health needs and inequities in health services. He has designed studies examining the impact of disaster events on children and community health over time. Dr. Rienne has also provided consultation to state health officials on projects to improve health delivery outcomes. Dr. Rienne's other roles at University of Kentucky included serving as a teaching assistant and researcher. He also did public outreach presentations on the COVID-19 pandemic and health safety measures. Dr. Rienne has over 10 years of experience in translational research investigating environmental health, maternal and child health, and population health.

Dr. Rienne holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Psychology from the University of Maryland and Microbiology & Molecular Genetics from Michigan State University. He earned a Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology from the University of Louisville as well as a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Epidemiology & Biostatistics from the University of Kentucky.