

## **30<sup>th</sup> Annual National Prevention Network (NPN) Conference Abstract**

Conference Topic: **Prevention and Addressing Disparities**

Working title of the presentation: **Prioritizing Access to Prevention Programs to Address Disparities in Behavioral Health**

Escalating concerns over the high prevalence and wide-spread negative consequences associated with substance abuse, underscores the importance of ensuring access to prevention programs and policies for underserved populations. Addressing behavioral health disparities related to substance abuse can be challenging since those at highest risk are often hard to reach, making engagement, access, and data collection difficult. Support from those in the community, including strategic partners and coalitions, ensures prevention efforts reach and are tailored to the most vulnerable populations. An understanding of the cultural and linguistic perspectives and preferences within communities can be used to strengthen the effectiveness of prevention activities. This understanding can be pivotal to success when behavioral health disparities are linked to limited service access and availability. Limitations in access to prevention efforts across geographically diverse areas require innovative strategies to address the unique circumstances that must be considered to promote health equity.

This session will highlight strategies for addressing behavioral health disparities experienced by communities affected by substance abuse. Barriers to reducing behavioral health disparities will be examined using “real world” examples from grantees. The work implemented in one Pacific Jurisdiction will be showcased to illustrate ways systematic data collection and analysis can be used to promote equity in the access, use and outcomes of substance abuse prevention programs.

**Presenter(s): *Bio to be provided***

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Level of audience content knowledge: Intermediate/Advanced

Type of audience the content is best suited: **State Systems Level, Local Level, Coalitions, Researcher**

Format: **Interactive Lecture**