

COMMUNITY HEALTH INNOVATION SUMMIT SAN ANTONIO 2026

Advancing Community Health. Expanding Access. Building Trust.

AGENDA | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2026

9:00 AM — **Welcoming Remarks**
Luis Belén, Chief Executive Officer, NHIT

9:15 AM — **Opening Remarks**
Kay Smarzinski, OD, Medical Affairs Executive Director, South Texas Ecosystem, Genentech

9:30 AM — **Panel 1: Beyond Reproductive Health: Women's Health and Treatment Access**
Moderator: Marianyoly Ortiz Ortiz, PhD, Executive Director, Puerto Rico Public Health Trust / PRPHI
Panelists:
Joshua Beck, MD, Regional Medical Director, Sanitas Medical Centers
Adriana Rocha Garcia, PhD, President & CEO, Center for Health Empowerment in South Texas (CHEST)
Mark Young, MBA, MAOM, CMPE, Chief Executive Officer, Community Health Network
Kay Smarzinski, OD, Medical Affairs Executive Director, South Texas Ecosystem, Genentech

10:25 AM — **A Special Presentation: Advancing Inclusive Research**
Presenters:
Jeremiah Brown, Jr., MD, MS, Vitreoretinal Surgeon, Retina Consultants of Texas
Genevieve Espinoza, Regional Manager of Quality Assurance and Operations, Retina Consultants of Texas – Westover Research

10:40 AM — **Break**

10:45 AM — **Panel 2: Closing the Last Mile: From Available Resources to Actual Access**
Moderator: Elizabeth Lutz, MBA, Chief Executive Officer, The Health Collaborative
Panelists:
David Saldaña, M.Ed, Director of Business Development, Social & Health Research Center (SAHRC)
Dave Esra, Founder & CEO, BobiHealth
Tod Citron, Chief Executive Officer, Hill Country MHDD Centers
Jeremiah Brown, Jr., MD, MS, Vitreoretinal Surgeon, Retina Consultants of Texas

11:40 AM — **Closing Remarks: From San Antonio to National Impact**
Luis Belén, Chief Executive Officer, NHIT

11:50 AM — **Lunch & Networking**

1:00 PM — **Adjourn**

View Full Agenda

This summit is hosted by the National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved (NHIT®) with the support of lead sponsor Genentech. Norris Conference Center, 618 NW Loop 410, Suite 207, San Antonio, TX 78216.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

WELCOMING & CLOSING REMARKS



LUIS BELÉN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NATIONAL HEALTH IT COLLABORATIVE FOR THE UNDERSERVED (NHIT®)

Luis Belén is a nationally recognized leader in health policy, digital innovation, and equitable healthcare transformation, with a strong focus on improving outcomes in rural and underrepresented communities. As CEO of NHIT®, he collaborates with the White House, Capitol Hill, and strategic partners to advance AI-powered healthcare solutions and mentor the next generation of health leaders.

He leads the NHIT Data Fusion Center® in collaboration with AWS, leveraging AI and cloud technology to translate social determinants of health (SDOH) data into actionable insights for patients, providers, researchers, and policymakers.

Belén is a tireless advocate for digital fairness and innovation, and a visionary behind the NHIT INSPIRED AI Academy. A recognized leader in digital health, he co-founded HIMSS Latino. An alumnus of A Better Chance and New York University, Belén has been honored with the 2024 NYU Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award and the 2025 HIMSS Policy Influencer Award.

PANEL 1 · BEYOND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH: WOMEN'S HEALTH AND TREATMENT ACCESS



MODERATOR

MARIANYOLY ORTIZ ORTIZ, PHD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – PUERTO RICO PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST / PRPHI

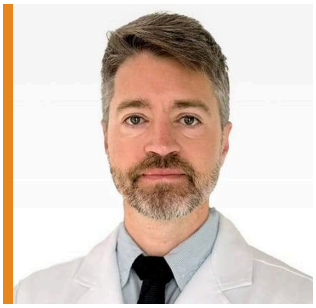
As executive director of the Puerto Rico Public Health Trust (PRPHT), Marianyoly Ortiz leads comprehensive initiatives to address Puerto Rico's most urgent public health challenges. Her leadership focuses on expanding access to health services, strengthening systems of care, and promoting evidence-informed solutions with measurable outcomes. She oversees cross-sector collaborations that enhance service delivery, particularly for underserved and rural communities throughout the archipelago. During Ortiz's tenure, PRPHT has been leading a wide-ranging portfolio of programs focused on disaster preparedness, health education, and workforce development. A key initiative under her direction has been the recognition of community health workers as essential connectors in delivering culturally competent care. She has also prioritized expanding telemedicine and telehealth services to support primary care providers in managing chronic diseases and behavioral health needs, particularly in regions with limited specialist access. Under her leadership, the organization has been advancing participatory disaster planning with vulnerable communities and overseeing ECHO learning collaboratives that train healthcare professionals in areas such as maternal health, social determinants of health and healthier lifestyles—enhancing knowledge and care capacity across the island. Her strategic direction has further supported youth leadership, digital literacy for older adults, and the inclusion of people with disabilities, reflecting a holistic, community-centered approach to improving population health.

MARIANYOLY ORTIZ ORTIZ, PHD (CONTINUED)

Before assuming her current role, Ortiz served for five years as associate director of the Puerto Rico Vector Control Unit, where she established modern entomology laboratories, implemented a mosquito surveillance system, and led public education and outreach initiatives to advance vector control. Her work in vector-borne disease prevention was bolstered by her active involvement in national scientific networks, including her role as a founding member of the Vector-Borne Disease Network and participation in the NSF National Ecological Observatory Network.

Earlier in her career, Ortiz held leadership roles in grant management and research development at the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust, where she contributed to establishing the Tropical Biodiversity Center and improving scientific grant evaluation processes. She also taught as an adjunct faculty at the University of Puerto Rico at Ponce and Interamerican University Metro Campus.

Ortiz's professional service includes board membership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Caribbean Division, and recent appointment to the NNPHI Board. She holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences and Microbiology and is a Board-Certified Entomologist, bringing strategic vision, scientific rigor, and community focus to all her roles.



JOSHUA BECK, MD

REGIONAL MEDICAL DIRECTOR – SANITAS MEDICAL CENTERS

Born in Dallas, Texas and raised in San Antonio, I'm proud to call this city home once again. I'm fluent in Spanish and had the opportunity to live in Mexico for four years while attending medical school, which deepened my connection to both cultures as someone who grew up in a bilingual, bicultural household.

I decided to go into medicine because I've always been fascinated by science, the human body, and the impact we can make by helping others. A good day at work is when everything flows smoothly—seeing patients, attending meetings, and moving through the day with energy and purpose.

At Sanitas, you'll receive whole-person care that focuses not only on your physical health but also on the psychosocial factors that influence your overall well-being. My goal is to support you in every aspect of your health journey.

When I'm not wearing my white coat, I enjoy going to the movies, spending time with my wife, kids, and family, and practicing Wing Tsun (Kung Fu).



ADRIANA ROCHA GARCIA, PHD

PRESIDENT & CEO – CENTER FOR HEALTH EMPOWERMENT IN SOUTH TEXAS (CHEST)

A lifelong resident of San Antonio, Adriana Rocha Garcia, PhD, was raised in and continues to call Southwest San Antonio home. She is passionate about organizations that help the most underrepresented populations in San Antonio. Growing up in a Spanish-speaking household to parents with a first- and second-grade Mexican education, she became the first in her family to earn a college degree. Rocha Garcia was the first woman elected to represent District 4 on the San Antonio City Council, in 2019, where she served three terms. She is president and CEO of the Center for Health Empowerment in South Texas, a nonprofit focused on bringing access to health care to neighborhoods on the south, west and east sides of San Antonio and South Texas, increasing access to health careers for students in underserved areas, and closing the life expectancy gap between those with and without access to care.



KAY SMARZINSKI, OD

MEDICAL AFFAIRS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SOUTH TEXAS ECOSYSTEM – GENENTECH

Kay Smarzinski, OD, is the Medical Affairs Executive Director for the South Texas Ecosystem at Genentech. Integrating clinical expertise with health system and biopharma leadership, Kay champions patient-first innovation. In her population health work, she leads high-impact strategies to dismantle disparities in healthcare access and expand inclusive clinical research across diverse patient populations.



MARK YOUNG, MBA, MAOM, CMPE

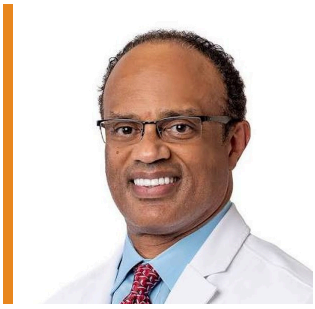
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK

Mark Young has served in C-suite leadership roles since 1995 and as Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Network (Stephen F. Austin Community Health Center, Inc.) since 2010. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, a Master's degree in Organizational Management, and an MBA. With more than 30 years of healthcare experience, Mr. Young has led the development and expansion of services across primary care, pediatrics, women's health, behavioral health, oral health, chronic care management, pharmacy, and community engagement.

Under his leadership, Community Health Network has advanced healthcare technology and operational innovation through the development of its Integrated Care EHR (ICE-3), patient portals, mobile applications, digital communication systems, telehealth, remote patient monitoring, and integrated resource management platforms. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these innovations supported increased patient access through automated testing and immunization systems and expanded digital communication. These efforts contributed to an 85.9% increase in established patients between 2020 and 2021, growing from 19,831 to 36,682.

Mr. Young continues to lead initiatives focused on value-based care, healthcare-at-home services, virtual care, home pharmaceutical delivery, and technology-enabled chronic care management. His work also emphasizes improving behavioral health outcomes through integrated screening, assessment, and monitoring tools designed to support patient progress and prevent hospitalizations. Passionate about improving healthcare access, quality, and affordability, Mr. Young's vision centers on ensuring everyone receives high-quality care regardless of income or circumstance, while advancing innovative solutions that create value for both the patient and the healthcare system.

A SPECIAL PRESENTATION · ADVANCING INCLUSIVE RESEARCH



PRESENTER

JEREMIAH BROWN, JR., MD, MS

VITREORETINAL SURGEON – RETINA CONSULTANTS OF TEXAS

Dr. Jeremiah Brown, Jr. is a board-certified Ophthalmologist with more than 20 years of practice experience as a Vitreoretinal Surgeon. He is devoted to diagnosing, treating and researching diseases of the retina and vitreous. Dr. Brown is motivated by the satisfaction and rewarding sense of accomplishment from preserving vision in his patients. It is this feeling that drives his clinical practice and his desire to research and be a part of developing new treatments for his patients. Dr. Brown is dedicated to remaining on the cutting edge of technology in order to provide the most effective results for his patients.



PRESENTER

GENEVIEVE ESPINOZA

REGIONAL MANAGER OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND OPERATIONS — RETINA CONSULTANTS OF TEXAS - WESTOVER RESEARCH

Genevieve Espinoza is a San Antonio native with over 20 years of experience in ophthalmology and a passion for expanding access and awareness of clinical research. She began her research journey alongside Dr. Jeremiah Brown, helping establish his first research site 10 years ago with a focus of bringing innovative treatment opportunities to patients across San Antonio's Far West Side and surrounding communities.

Through continued growth and collaboration, the research department has expanded to three locations across San Antonio. Now serving as Senior Manager of Quality Assurance and Operations for Retina Consultants of Texas, Genevieve remains committed to advancing clinical research opportunities and is also an active member of the AIR Site Alliance.

PANEL 2 · CLOSING THE LAST MILE: FROM AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO ACTUAL ACCESS



MODERATOR

ELIZABETH LUTZ, MBA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER — THE HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

Elizabeth Lutz is a community advocate working to increase awareness of the needs of hidden communities in Texas. Her work centers on the needs of those who have lost access to quality healthcare because of fear, threat, retaliation, or stigma. She uses stories to inform, align, and mobilize resources to improve the well-being of those living in silence and fear. As the daughter of immigrants, she brings a deep understanding of the challenges facing these communities. Using her skills in cross-sector coalition building, solution-focused facilitation, and collaborative partnerships, she is helping create a new narrative that will better inform how public and private resources are invested.



DAVID SALDAÑA, M.ED

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT — SOCIAL & HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER (SAHRC)

David grew up in San Antonio and graduated from UTSA with a BS in Health Education and a Master's in Education Leadership. He has owned a small advertising and marketing business focusing on print media. David is passionate about health & fitness, education, and music. He is married to his lovely wife Debbie, has 2 children and 3 grandchildren, and is co-founder of The Krayolas rock-n-roll group.



DAVE ESRA

CO-FOUNDER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – BOBIHEALTH

Dave Esra, BobiHealth Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), is a proven leader and innovator with more than 20 years of experience leading mission-driven teams and operations.

He has successfully served in project and program leadership roles in public and private sectors, directing transformative initiatives in enterprise development, health and safety, and regulatory compliance and risk management. This includes serving in senior executive roles with the US Army, improving efficiency and sustainability of Fortune 500 companies, and strengthening startups and small businesses.

Dave has earned a Master of Science in Executive Leadership, postgraduate certificates in Artificial Intelligence (AI), and multiple certifications in Agile Leadership and Program Management, including PMI-PMP, PMI-ACP, PgMP, and SAFe Lean Portfolio Manager.

Building upon his work at Pregistry, a healthcare company specialized in assessing medication and vaccination safety for pregnant and lactating individuals, he co-founded BobiHealth to build ethical, AI-powered tools that advance maternal health equity and support data-driven care.

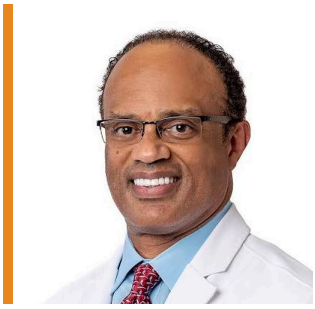
As a parent and lifelong public servant, Dave is passionate about using technology to eradicate inequity and to empower families to thrive.



TOD CITRON

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – HILL COUNTRY MENTAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES CENTERS

Tod Citron leads Hill Country MHDD Centers, which delivers mental health, developmental disability, substance use and crisis services across 19 Hill Country counties.



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