



Florida Health Grand Rounds

Presenter Bio

A Qualitative Exploration of Prenatal Care Barriers and Facilitators among African American, Black and Caucasian Women: A Collective Impact Initiative

December 8, 2020 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Presented by: Claudia Blackburn MPH, RN, CPM
and Jessica De Leon PhD



Claudia Blackburn MPH, RN, CPM

Health Officer, Florida Department of Health in Leon County

Claudia Blackburn has been the Health Officer for the Florida Department of Health (DOH) in Leon County (Tallahassee) and Assistant Professor at Florida State University College of Medicine, Department of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine since June 2014.

DOH-Leon is located in north central Florida and has a mostly urban population of 293,582 (2019 census estimate). Her vision is to create a high performing health department that works collaboratively with community partners to improve the health of Leon County residents and guests. Blackburn was instrumental in the formation of an academic health department agreement between

DOH-Leon, Florida State University, Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University and the Big Bend Area Health Education Center. These partners are poised to assure a robust public health workforce for the Big Bend Counties.

Previous positions include Director of Health for Sedgwick County Health Department (PHAB accredited) in Wichita, KS from May 2005 to June 2014 and Amarillo Department of Public Health from 1996-2005.

A public health practitioner for over 40 years, Blackburn holds a BSN from University of Connecticut, an MPH from University of Texas School of Public Health, was trained as a women's health care nurse practitioner and is a Certified Public Manager.

Currently, Blackburn is co-chair of the DOH Health Equity Program Council. She has been president of the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments and the Texas Association of Local Health Officials and is a graduate of the Kansas Health Foundation Fellows Program, the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute and the National Public Health Leadership Institute.

Blackburn has been a Public Health Accreditation Board site reviewer for nine years and successfully shepherded Sedgwick County Health Department and FDOH-Leon through the accreditation process. She is also a member of the PHAB Accreditation Improvement Committee, providing feedback on the reaccreditation and process.

Claudia served on the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Board from 2013-2019, the Accreditation Preparation and Quality Improvement Workgroup from 2010-2013 and the Public Health Informatics Workgroup since 2011 (Co-chair since 2016).



Jessica De Leon, PhD

Associate Professor at Florida State University College of Medicine

Jessica De Leon, PhD, is an Assistant Professor and an Assistant in Research at Florida State University's College of Medicine, with a dual appointment in the Division of Research & Graduate Programs and the Department of Family Medicine and Rural Health. She is a cultural anthropologist with over twenty years' experience conducting qualitative research in a variety of community and healthcare settings. Dr. De Leon's research focuses on the sociocultural aspects of health and health care among women, children, underserved populations, and racial and ethnic groups. Her professional expertise includes medical anthropology, women's health, minority health, health disparities and disaster preparedness and response. Jessica has published in anthropology and medical journals, including *Family Medicine*, *Family Practice*, *Clinical and Translational Science*, *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, *Practicing Anthropology* and *Ethnicity & Health*, and has presented her research at numerous state, national and international conferences. She has received funding from the National Institutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and the Department of Veteran's Affairs.