

September 2025

# Honoring Health Improvement



Celebrating Health Improvement Across Oklahoma Awards Program



CENTER FOR  
**RURAL HEALTH**  
OSU Center for Health Sciences



# Thank You



# Meet Your Award Ceremony Partners

## Partners in Honoring Health Improvement

In 2023, the Rural Health Association of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Telehealth Alliance, the Oklahoma Office of Rural Health, and the Oklahoma Turning Point Council initiated a collaborative partnership to honor the contributions of organizations, individuals, and clinic sites making a positive impact in health and social care outcomes across Oklahoma.

The collaborative partnership includes an Annual Awards Ceremony and Education Conference.



**Rural Health Association of Oklahoma**



**Telehealth Alliance of Oklahoma**



**Oklahoma State Office of Rural Health**



**Oklahoma Turning Point Council**



# Oklahoma Turning Point Council's 2025 Awards

# Metriarch

## Community Health Champion

Metriarch's work directly addresses the need for intersectional, systems-informed change that centers the lived experience of women across diverse geographies, identities, and health journeys. At its core, Metriarch is a policy, data, and narrative organization that lifts up women's voices to inform, influence, and transform public health priorities. Their impact is felt statewide, from legislative hearings to living rooms; from TikTok channels to tribal communities.

Through tools like the Metriarch Data Look Book, the Oklahoma Legislative Tracker, and the I Lady Charts events, Metriarch has dramatically increased public access to trusted, digestible information. These tools don't just inform, they activate. They are built for real people, not just policy insiders. They democratize data, humanize policy, and make civic participation accessible to those historically excluded from the decision-making table. In doing so, Metriarch removes systemic and informational barriers to participation and policy advocacy in real time.



# Cherokee County Health Services Council

Community Health Champion



## Rozlyn Locust

Executive Director,  
Cherokee County Health  
Services Council



# Monster Soup Society

## Community Health Champion



“Monster Soup Society is not content with surface-level impact. They advocate for structural change, from the way youth mental health is funded to how schools, policymakers, and adults engage with young people. Their model flips the script: they don’t ask youth to adapt to broken systems, they equip them to transform those systems altogether.”



**Heather Ariyeh**

Project Director



# Restore OKC & Parent Partnership Advisory Committee

## Community Health Champion



**RESTORE**  
— OKC —



**Jonathan Veal**

Co-Director

Veal facilitates monthly RestoreOKC Parent Partnership Advisory Committee meetings that involve finding and engaging various community stakeholders, leaders, organizations, and partners, ensuring community members drive organizational decisions rather than external assumptions.

For example, Veal champions community engagement in Oklahoma City Housing Authority meetings for new housing projects, using personal and professional resources because he believes "those most affected should be part of the solution."

His approach removes participation barriers by creating nurturing environments ensuring all feel welcomed whether at indoor, outdoor, advocacy, educational, or spiritual events.



# Oklahoma N.E.A.R. Science Trainers

## Community Health Champion

The NEAR Science Presenters in Oklahoma exemplify what it means to be Community Health Champions through their unwavering dedication to increasing understanding of how early adversity impacts health and wellness across the lifespan. Utilizing the neuroscience, epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and resilience (NEAR) framework, this statewide group of trained presenters has become a catalytic force in shifting public understanding and driving upstream solutions to long-standing community health challenges.

The NEAR Science Presenters have delivered powerful, research-based presentations to diverse audiences including educators, healthcare professionals, faith leaders, tribal communities, nonprofits, and local government representatives. Their efforts have reached thousands of Oklahomans in both rural and urban settings, increasing awareness and sparking trauma-informed practices and system change in schools, clinics, and community programs.

Through education, partnerships, and sustained grassroots engagement, they have demonstrated a profound and measurable impact on health and wellness in communities across the state. For these reasons, we are proud to present the N.E.A.R. Science trainers the Community Health Champion Award.



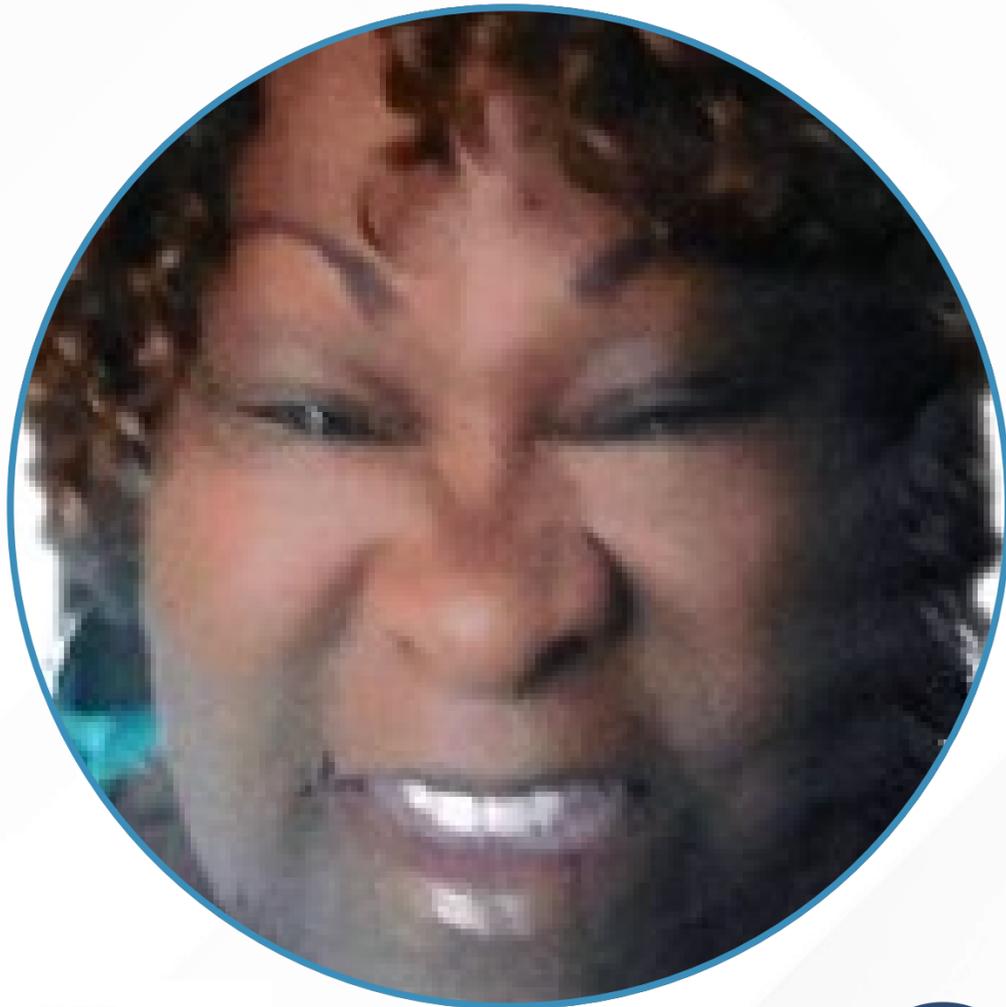
# Betty Hawkins-Emory

## Community Health Champion

Ms. Betty Hawkins-Emery exemplifies the essence of a Community Health Champion through her transformative, equity-centered approach to addressing health disparities across Oklahoma.

As a veteran, nurse, former foster parent, and founder of Hawkins House Inc., she brings over seven decades of lived experience. Her journey raising Brandon, her 18-year-old son with disabilities, authentically fuels her passionate advocacy and creates the foundation for evidence-based community health initiatives that center community voice and systematically remove barriers.

She systematically removes barriers by providing gas gift cards through 211 services and has collaborated with the Potts Family Foundation and a local family resource center (RestoreOKC) to expand assistance while connecting recipients to comprehensive resources.



# Jessica Bruckerhoff

## Community Health Champion



Jessica Bruckerhoff represents exceptional community health leadership, combining authentic parental perspective with proven governance experience, and visionary collaborative skills.

She is being recognized for her exceptional dedication to improving community health through strategic partnerships and parent-centered initiatives. As PC Chairman of Sunbeam Family Services Board of Directors, Policy Council Chairman/Board of Directors member, and University of Oklahoma Parent Advisory Board member, Jessica demonstrates outstanding leadership in promoting health equity and amplifying community voice.

Her board leadership roles, professional expertise in strategic partnerships and community needs awareness, and unprecedented success bringing together diverse organizations make her an ideal Community Health Champion Award recipient.



# Taylor Holland

Cheyenne and Arapaho

## OTPC Young Professional of the Year

“In every role she takes on, whether presenting at a conference, learning her own native languages, or formerly co-leading the state’s CHW Coalition alongside Tribal partners, and now serving as a PhD student in Rural and Indigenous Health, Taylor brings a rare combination of cultural humility, systems knowledge, and tactical leadership. She is mentoring a new generation of public health professionals and opening doors for Native students.”



# Senator Carri Hicks

## Health Innovator of the Year



State of Oklahoma · Assistant Democratic Floor Leader

- For the past six years, Senator Hicks has elevated concerns, crafted policy and met with influential leaders to address long-term solutions for the challenges our state is facing
- Serves on the following Senate committees:
  - Health and Human Services
  - Education,
  - Finance, and
  - Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
- Author for Senate Interim Study, #25-44
  - Sustainability of community and school-based family resource centers with public and private partnerships



# Rep. Tammy West

## Health Innovator of the Year



Oklahoma State Representative Tammy West is proudly serving again as the Majority Whip in her fifth term and previously served as Majority Leader during her fourth term in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. This is after being elected by her peers to serve as the Caucus vice chair her first year in office, and later as Caucus chair.

West currently serves on the Board of Directors for RISE, Re-entry Investment in Student Education and is a Prison Fellowship member. She has been effective in enacting legislation that provides for a victim-centered, restorative justice deferred prosecution program, while still promoting public safety and protecting victims. In 2021, West received the “Bulldog Award” from the District Attorney’s Council for her “fight to improve criminal justice” in Oklahoma.

Author for House Interim Study, #25-130

- Sustainability of community and school-based family resource centers with public and private partnerships



# Lauran Larson

## OTPC Trailblazer



Lauran Larson is a public health powerhouse whose work is fueled by a fierce commitment to equity, a relentless curiosity to understand systemic barriers, and the unshakable grit required to build something better. She is not only a bold leader transforming systems—she is a visionary with fire in her heart, tireless in her pursuit of justice, and grounded in an equity-driven purpose that guides every action.

As the Senior Manager of Food and Health at Hunger Free Oklahoma, Lauran leads with clarity, compassion, and conviction. She co-leads the Oklahoma Food is Medicine Coalition and Oklahoma Nutrition Security Task Force, bringing together over 250 diverse stakeholders from healthcare, food systems, policy, transportation, and economic development. These are not easy spaces to navigate, and yet Lauran thrives in them—unafraid to challenge outdated models or question traditional power dynamics. Her approach is rooted in alignment, not ego; impact, not prestige.



# Allison Seigars

## Neil Hann Leadership Award



Allison Seigers exemplifies the spirit and substance of the Neil Hann Leadership Award. As Executive Director of Rural Health Projects, Inc. (RHP) in Enid, Allison has dedicated her career to advancing a culture of health in Oklahoma through innovation, collaboration, and community-rooted leadership. Her impact reaches far beyond the borders of northwestern Oklahoma, influencing statewide initiatives and serving as a model for public health leadership rooted in trust, integrity, and action.

Allison's leadership has created ripple effects across Oklahoma's rural health landscape. Through RHP, she has built a robust infrastructure that supports regional health improvement collaboratives, cross-sector coalitions, workforce development, and public health emergency response. She brings a deep understanding of both systems and community needs, and consistently bridges the two with solutions that are practical, scalable, and people-centered.

Allison is a relentless advocate for rural health equity. She has cultivated and sustained multi-county health coalitions focused on addressing the drivers of health, from housing and transportation to behavioral health and chronic disease prevention.



# Please join us in honoring Oklahoma's Health Heroes



**Thank  
you for  
joining  
us!**



**See you Tomorrow!**

**Thank you!**

**Presented by:**



**WINTERGREEN®**

