

Guest Panelists – Housing and its Connection to Health

Katie Gentry, Human Services Planner

Maricopa Association of Governments

Katie Gentry is a Human Services Planner at Maricopa Association of Governments working on system integration. Katie focuses on bringing community resources together to better address homelessness from a human-centered perspective. Katie graduated from the University of Denver with her bachelor's degree in Chemistry with minors in Psychology, Leadership Studies, and Math. After graduating, she moved to Phoenix to work for Mayor Stanton as his homeless and Veteran policy adviser first as an AmeriCorps VISTA and then as a full-time staff member. After Mayor Stanton left office, Katie worked at the Arizona Housing Coalition as a Research and Policy Coordinator. When not trying to solve homelessness, Katie enjoys traveling, hiking, and exploring coffee shops.

Diana "Dede" Yazzie Devine, President/CEO

Native American Connections

DeDe has been working with Native American urban and tribal entities since 1972 and has been employed as the CEO of Native American Connections (NAC) since 1979. NAC is a 501 (c) 3 Native American operated nonprofit corporation that provides comprehensive behavioral health services, affordable housing, and community based economic development opportunities. NAC serves all populations with a targeted mission to serve Native Americans living both in the Phoenix urban area and from tribal communities.

DeDe has an MBA from Arizona State University and holds International and State licenses in substance abuse counseling. She dedicates her time to local, state and national boards/committees including: Founding board member Native Home Capital and People of Color Network; (Current advisory boards) St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center; Maricopa Integrated Health System Audit and Compliance; City of Mesa Housing; Arizona State University Lodestar Center for Philanthropy & Nonprofit Innovation; (Past) Federal Home Loan Bank - Affordable Housing Advisory Board; St. Mary's High School Board President; and Robert Wood Johnson National Mentor for Developing Leadership. DeDe leadership and dedication have been recognized within the community with the following honors: Valley Leadership's Woman of the Year (2003), ONE (Organization for Nonprofit Executives) Executive Director of the Year (2006), YWCA's Tribute to Women - Business Leader Award (2008); Foothills Magazine's Women Who Move the Valley (2010); Arizona's Centennial Legacy Project - Arizona's 48 Most Intriguing Women (2012); and the Phoenix Business Journal's 25 Most Admired CEOs (2012).