

Session A Title: Bridging the Gaps: A Strategic Partnership Model to Improve Vision Care Delivery

Time: 10:15 – 11:00 am

Location: San Carlos 2

Presenters: Alejandro Espinoza, MPH, CHES, Chief of Community Engagement, Desert Healthcare District & Foundation

Session Description: Access to healthcare remains a persistent challenge across Coachella Valley due to high uninsured rates, transportation barriers, geographic dispersion and shortages of specialty providers. To help bridge these gaps, Desert Healthcare District & Foundation developed a mobile healthcare model that brings services directly into underserved communities and leverages strategic partnerships to expand access to specialty care.

Learn how the District partnered with Lestonnac Free Clinic to integrate no-cost vision screenings, prescription glasses and referrals for follow-up care into its existing mobile healthcare operations. By utilizing established logistics, trusted community sites, outreach networks and community partnerships, the program was able to rapidly connect residents with much-needed vision care.

Attendees will gain practical strategies for leveraging existing mobile infrastructure, developing cross-sector partnerships and using patient-centered data to demonstrate impact and guide future growth. The session will also explore how healthcare districts can create scalable, flexible mobile care models that address health disparities and strengthen regional systems of care.



Alejandro Espinoza, MPH, CHES is Chief of Community Engagement at Desert Healthcare District & Foundation and has more than 18 years of experience designing and leading community-based initiatives addressing the social determinants of health. He has led efforts to expand healthcare access throughout the Coachella Valley, including the development and deployment of mobile medical clinics providing primary care, behavioral health and preventive services to underserved communities. Prior to joining the District, Alejandro served as Program Director of Chronic Diseases and Special Projects at Latino Health Access. He also serves as faculty in the Public Health program at California State University, Fullerton, where he educates and mentors emerging public health professionals.