

CDC Foundation

Lisa Waddell, MD, MPH Chief Medical Officer



Dr. Lisa Waddell, MPH, is the chief medical officer (CMO) for the CDC Foundation. This is a new role for the CDC Foundation and was created to aid in the Foundation's COVID-19 emergency response. Dr. Waddell is a preventive medicine and public health physician with over 30 years of local, state and national public health leadership experience. She has a passion for public health and is committed to promoting and protecting the health of populations. She has a particular interest in addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, needs of moms and babies, and those with disparate health outcomes.

As CMO, Dr. Waddell provided leadership for the development of the COVID-19 Corps Nationwide Surge Staffing initiative, an initiative that includes directing a team of public health professionals who are providing support to health departments across the nation as part of the COVID-19 response. In addition, she supports the CDC Foundation's capacity building initiative to support Community Based Organizations. Dr. Waddell serves on the Foundation's executive team and represents the Foundation at national events.

She joined the CDC Foundation from the March of Dimes, where she served as deputy chief medical and health officer and the senior vice president for Maternal and Child Health Impact nationwide. Prior to the March of Dimes, Dr. Waddell worked with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) as chief of community health and prevention. Before this role, she served as deputy commissioner for Health Services for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the state's public health agency. Dr. Waddell also served as deputy public health director/medical director in Richmond, Virginia.

She is a member of several professional organizations including the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), the American Public Health Association (APHA), the National Medical Association and the South Carolina Public Health Association.

Dr. Waddell received her doctor of medicine from the Medical College of Virginia and a bachelor's in biology from the University of Virginia. She completed her residency in preventive medicine/public health from the Medical College of Virginia, and she received her master's in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a graduate of the National Public Health Leadership Institute.

The Equity Institute

Vincent Perez Executive Director



Vincent's vocational calling is to honor the dignity and identities of learners to grow access, agency, empowerment, inclusion, healing, joy, justice, liberation, and solidarity. His approach to emancipatory education is rooted in humanizing and historicizing practices. He began his equity policy journey in 1993 in the YMCA Youth & Government program, where he wrote a bill to make "multicultural education" a graduation requirement for mock legislation in Olympia, WA. He has since dedicated his career to serving historically marginalized peoples through carceral studies, culturally responsive pedagogy, ethnic studies, experiential education, family engagement, healing-centered masculinity, implementation science, Indigenous epistemology, juvenile justice reform, Latinx bilingual leadership, near-peer mentorship, policy analysis, program evaluation, student empowerment, and trauma-informed systems.

Vincent currently leads the Equity Institute serving education, government, and nonprofit organizations in the service of racial healing, cross-racial solidarity, and intersectional social justice. The Equity Institute's intergenerational approaches are rooted in trauma-informed, healing-centered practices that foster structures by which students and families make policies that impact their day-to-day experience. The Equity Institute positions historically marginalized communities as critical researchers, transformative intellectuals, counter-storytellers, and empowered knowledge producers. Clients range across sectors such as theatre and movie production companies, a property management company, and a historical society. In addition, the Equity Institute provides direct support to Spanish-speaking families in Lewis County through rental and utility assistance and access to covid-19 vaccines.