Addressing Health Disparities Leadership Program
2015-2016 Faculty Profiles

The Addressing Health Disparities Leadership Program is led by National Council staff and expert consultants who are nationally-recognized leadership development and health disparities. Below is additional information about the faculty for this year’s class:

Jeanne Supin, MA
President & CEO, Watauga Consulting, Inc.

For over 25 years, Jeanne Supin has guided behavioral health providers, authorities and payers through successful change and toward leadership, management and workforce excellence. She is skilled at helping seasoned and emerging leaders amplify strengths to create personal and professional transformation and to improve services, organizations, and systems of care. Her scope extends from programs and departments; whole organizations; and integrated organizations and stakeholders across a system, region, or state.

As President and CEO of Watauga Consulting, Inc., Ms. Supin’s consultancy offers consultation, technical assistance, training, and coaching in the following areas: leadership and management development; change management; professional discovery and development; managing across generations; self-care for leadership vitality; team excellence; workforce development and excellence; healthy conflict; affiliations and mergers; strategic planning; and needs assessments.

Jeanne holds a Master’s Degree in political science from the University of California Santa Barbara where she focused on political power, collective action and revolution, and public law. Despite the serious and weighty content of her work, Jeanne’s style is easy-going, open, collaborative, and joyful. She sees potential, illuminates vision, and will nudge her clients toward achieving what once seemed impossible.

Suganya Sockalingam, Ph.D.
Partner & Managing Member, Change Matrix, LLC

Dr. Suganya Sockalingam is a Partner and Managing Member of Change Matrix, LLC a small minority and women owned disadvantaged business that works to motivate, manage and measure systems change. Change Matrix supports agencies to address diversity, cultural and linguistic competence, cross-cultural communication, as well as leadership, collaboration, and conflict management. Dr. Sockalingam focuses on supporting assessment of individuals, organizations, and systems, identifying strategies for implementation, and monitoring and evaluating outcomes.

As a Change Matrix consultant, she serves as an external facilitator to five of the ten Regional Health Equity Councils sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Minority Health National Partnership to Eliminate Health Disparities Initiative. She facilitates strategic planning and
implementation of regional work plans to eliminate disparities. Additionally, she serves as a senior consultant to the National Center for Cultural Competence at Georgetown University.

Mohini Venkatesh, MPH
Vice President of Practice Improvement, National Council for Behavioral Health

Mohini Venkatesh is a passionate advocate for systems-level change. Ms. Venkatesh leads some of the industry’s strongest practice improvement and leadership programs designed to transform clinical and business strategies to meet ever-changing needs, including the Executive Leadership Program, Advancing Standards of Care for People with Bipolar Disorder, and the National Council’s scope for SAMHSA’s BHbusiness Initiative. As a national policy expert, Ms. Venkatesh conducts legislative analysis on the most pressing issues, including health reform, and offers analytic and advocacy advice to National Council members and state and regional associations across the country. Ms. Venkatesh particularly champions mid-level and rising-star leaders as the future of behavioral health, and is the catalyst behind national programs such as the Middle Management Academy, Young Leaders Program, and Addressing Health Disparities Leadership Program.

Prior to joining the National Council, Ms. Venkatesh worked in the field in a hospital-based psychiatric unit, several social service non-profit organizations, and a state association advocating for community behavioral services. Ms. Venkatesh is the board vice-chair for a community behavioral health organization in Washington, DC and recently completed a fellowship with the Non-Profit Roundtable’s Future Executive Directors Program. She received a Master’s in Public Health from Yale University and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Adam Swanson, MPP
Policy Associate, National Council for Behavioral Health

Adam Swanson is a fervent advocate for culturally competent and compassionate clinical care practices. Mr. Swanson oversees the development of progressive approaches to implement and translate policy into practice. As the manager of the National Council’s Addressing Health Disparities Leadership Program, he oversees the annual recruitment of diverse, mid-level managers working in community-based behavioral health agencies interested in reducing the pervasive effects of health disparities. He also assumes responsibility for identifying and implementing a curriculum that strengthens the overall bedrock of well-being for minority groups – mental and physical health.

Prior to joining the National Council, Adam spent a year working in the United States Senate as a health and LGBT policy intern where he engaged directly with diverse civil rights coalitions and national education groups to support the Student Non-Discrimination Act. Prior to his work on Capitol Hill, Adam worked with mediation service providers and practitioners in the state of Virginia and their implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Through his other advocacy efforts, Adam coordinated a national grassroots effort which ultimately engaged marginalized communities in the policy sphere in more than thirty states. He received a Master’s in Public Policy from George Mason University and a B.A. in Sociology from Western Kentucky University.