Kimberly Seals Allers is an award-winning journalist and a leading commentator, public speaker and consultant on motherhood and breastfeeding issues. She is a former writer at FORTUNE and senior editor at Essence magazine, Kimberly’s thoughtful and provocative online commentaries on motherhood, breastfeeding disparities and infant health and the intersection of race, class and culture, received over 10 million page views last year.

In 2011, Kimberly was named an IATP Food and Community Fellow, funded by the Kellogg Foundation, with a mandate to increase awareness and engagement around “the first food”—breast milk, in vulnerable communities. She was also selected by the United States Breastfeeding Committee as a lead commentator for the upcoming nationwide “Break Time for Nursing Mothers” federal campaign.


Jacques Colon focuses much of his life on health, especially the wide disparities in healthy outcomes within Pierce County. The 2016 “40 Under Forty” honoree is essentially a researcher as health equity coordinator for Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. Working in the Office of the Director of Health (Dr. Anthony Chen), Jacques is responsible for education, awareness, and action on the many public health issues that impact the citizens of Pierce County across racial, ethnic, socio-economic, and other demographic boundaries. He has been involved with detailed examinations of the current state of health outcomes for the residents of our community including mapping life expectancy on a neighborhood basis. This in-depth analysis has discovered that life expectancy varies by as much as ten years just blocks from each other in areas of Pierce County with many corresponding inequities both in clinical conditions and with regard to the social determinants of health, drawing yet another concrete linkage between population health and socio-economic status.

The People’s Institute Northwest supports and coordinates Undoing Institutional Racism (UIR) workshops as well as providing technical assistance and organizing support to community based organizations, educators, social service agencies, government, faith based organizations, prisoner organizations, coalitions for social change, and youth groups.

Scott Winn is a Policy and Development Lead for the City of Seattle Race and Social Justice Initiative which works to eliminate institutionalized racism in City government and to achieve racial equity in Seattle. He is a member of the Leadership Team of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), a national network of white organizers working for racial equity. He is also a faculty member of the University of Washington, School of Social Work where he teaches courses centered on social workers as agents for social and economic change.

Dr. Hilda Mena is a Family Medicine Physician and is a University of Washington School of Medicine, Family Medicine affiliate. A long-time advocate of Latino health, she helps practitioners-in-training learn Spanish and learn about caring for Latinos in the different areas of health care. She has worked in various community health centers, in Seattle and in San Francisco. She has a particular interest in women’s health and is a proponent of helping mothers achieve successful breastfeeding.