



# Sonoma Connect | Sonoma Unidos

## Community Leadership Board

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The Community Leadership Board (CLB) of **Sonoma Connect | Sonoma Unidos (SC|SU)** would like to express deep gratitude to Adriana Arrizon for her impactful time serving as Director of SC|SU. As of January 27, we celebrate her accomplishments when she becomes Health Action Together's first Executive Director!

During her time with SC|SU, Adriana has led groundbreaking work focused on accelerating collaboration and response to racial inequities and trauma caused by racism and Adverse Childhood Experiences. Adriana has coalesced a team around developing and co-leading this work through healing-centered community engagement, leadership opportunities for historically unrepresented community members, and community-led strategies to build Diversity Equity & Belonging (DEB) capacity across local mental health and social services systems. Cynthia King, CLB Member and Action Team Chair says "Adriana demonstrates the future of effective leadership: she is honest, warm, inclusive, and empathetic, while also disrupting systems that no longer serve the community. We have been so fortunate to have her heart, determination, and relationships as part of this initiative

Adriana shares, "I am grateful the Community Leadership Board gave me the opportunity to do what I love, to elevate the importance of involving people in efforts to change their circumstances by disrupting the root causes that create inequalities and health disparities. Most importantly, I've been fortunate to do this with the most amazing staff who are leading and paving the way to transform health outcomes for future generations. Not only has Saskia demonstrated capacity to lead this effort, transitioning her into the Director role supports SC|SU's mission and core values."

As Executive Director of Health Action Together (HA Together), Adriana will lead in building a community-led organization focused on tackling both systems-level and grassroots challenges, aligning partners, and implementing multi-stakeholder change strategies. A cornerstone of this work is developing a new Agenda for Action, informed by the findings of the *Portrait of Sonoma County 2021 Update* and co-created with community members of color and other historically marginalized people who experience the greatest disparities. The Agenda for Action will guide the institutional, political, philanthropic, and community-based efforts and resource investments in Sonoma County, as well as the evolving work of Health Action Together.

Saskia Garcia will transition to Sonoma Connect | Sonoma Unidos Interim Director. Saskia has co-created and co-led with Adriana over the past two years and has experience in nonprofit and cross-sector collaboration leadership in Sonoma County and the North Bay. Saskia's experience includes grants and financial management, public health policy systems and environment changes, data analysis and visualization, program evaluation, and facilitation and action planning.

Saskia and the SC|SU staff look forward to continuing the work of our three Action Teams and understand that this work would not be possible without you, our partners. Together, we celebrate and support Adriana's leadership and look forward to retaining our shared values and commitment to de-siloing cross-sector partners through community-led policy and systems co-creation.



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This leadership transition reflects the deep alignment and strong partnership that HA Together and SC|SU have cultivated. Both SC|SU and HA Together are working to advance community wellness, social justice, and racial equity for historically underserved, marginalized, and/or adversely affected people in Sonoma County. Both organizations seek to actively engage community members in defining their priority areas and co-leading with institutions and policy- and decision-makers on actions needed to dismantle inequities in Sonoma County. Both organizations are committed to mutually support, leverage, and cross-pollinate each other's work in pursuit of sustainable, systems-level change.

Community Leadership Board members, whose contact information is to the left, are available to discuss these changes with Sonoma Connect| Sonoma Unidos Partners, Community Members, or other interested parties.

With gratitude,

The SC|SU Community Leadership Board