



Meet the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) Public Health Liaisons!

Meet Alexandra Oropeza, Public Health Liaison. Alexandra serves the county's Southwest region, including Laveen, Avondale, Goodyear, Tolleson, Buckeye, Litchfield Park, and Gila Bend. She also serves as the team lead for the other four Public Health Liaisons.

What do you do in your role as a Public Health Liaison?

As the Public Health Liaison (PHL) for Southwest Maricopa, I develop, facilitate, and strengthen relationships and partnerships between MCDPH and our stakeholders. External Stakeholders include local and state government agencies such as cities, towns, school districts, community leaders, community groups, non-profits, and businesses. Internal stakeholders include all colleagues who work across Public Health in various programs and departments. The cities and towns include Tolleson, Avondale, Cashion, Litchfield Park, Buckeye, Tonopah, and Gila Bend. I also support the other 4 Public Health Liaisons as the Team Lead for the Program, which covers all of Maricopa County.

What does a typical workday look like for you?

A typical day for me includes meetings with internal or external stakeholders to learn about who they are as individuals, what kind of work they do and why they selected the work they are involved in. Meetings typically take up most of my day, followed by action items that are identified during the meetings. If gaps are identified, and internal MCDPH programs can address the gaps, then I link the program to the stakeholder to work on those gaps. As the lead for the team, I meet with each PHL

weekly as a team which allows me to support their work and answer questions for the team, and I also conduct one-on-one meetings with each PHL.

What type of support do you provide to community organizations?

During meetings with community organizations, my goal is to learn about the health issues that their audience/clients are dealing with. My goal is to learn about the health issues and how that community organization is addressing those issues or if they need support in doing so. I work on linking the community organization to a community stakeholder who can address the issues. If the issue is something that MCDPH is addressing, then I will link the organization to the appropriate internal team. I am also able to share data that we have gathered on the city, town, or population that the organization is serving. From time-to-time organizations share that they did not know that MCPDH conducts surveys and were unaware of their ability to request this data.

What is the biggest challenge you face in your role?

I have been in my role for two years; the biggest challenge has been how much COVID-19 limited my ability to build community in person across the Southwest region. Zoom, Teams, and other forms of technology are great; however in my opinion nothing substitutes physically being in the community and truly meeting the community where they live, work, and play.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of my job is meeting people and getting to know who they are and why they are invested in the work that they do. Everyone has an amazing story, and it fuels their work. I love that people trust me to share their successes and where MCDPH can help the community become healthier.

How can an organization/company get in contact with you?

Organizations/Companies can call, text, or email me at 602-761-0952 or alexandra.oropeza@maricopa.gov