

**Name of Nominee:**

Lorena Dawson

**Nominee's Employer/Agency:**

San Juan Basin Public Health

**Nominee's County of Residence:**

La Plata

**Nominee's Self-Identified Area of Public Health Expertise:**

Health Equity

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**For which position would you like to submit a nomination?:**

Health Equity Coalition - Associate Director (2-year Term Commitment)

**Describe your background, education, and experience relevant to the CPHA Board. (200 words maximum):**

Prior to public health, I pursued a career in civil engineering. I spent four years in the engineering workforce while also volunteering for a local organization called Village Aid Project. During this time, I took the lead in designing water systems for villages lacking access to clean water. Building water systems in Nicaragua revealed to me some of the consequences of living with this inequity, and how this one issue is connected to a broader system that perpetuates broader inequality in society. As someone who has always been passionate about structural inequalities, I was inspired to leave my job in engineering and pursue a career where I could make an impact on my community. As the Health Equity Coordinator at San Juan Basin Public Health, I took a leadership role in establishing the Health Equity Workgroup, creating a space to learn and discuss equity issues alongside my colleagues. I attended Public Health in the Rockies and participated in a Health Equity Lab, building relationships and discussing current frameworks and measuring tools that could push equity through this workgroup and the health department.

**What are your goals in serving on the CPHA Board? (150 words maximum):**

Health equity is one of my core values and I want to provide meaningful service to Colorado in this realm while learning from other leaders in the state. I am committed to promoting health equity initiatives at San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH) but I am ready to expand my involvement beyond my local community. I have joined local efforts and created a health equity book club. By joining the CPHA board, I will have access to education and knowledge that will push me to be a stronger health equity leader. Joining CPHA's health equity coalition would be a valuable resource for myself and my development as a facilitator of SJBPH's health equity workgroup. My hope in joining this coalition is to continue to build a library of resources that includes literature and topic experts that I can bring back to SJBPH and share with this workgroup and those who are not traditionally part of health equity conversations.

**What specific contributions do you expect to make to CPHA? (150 words maximum):**

I bring a different base of knowledge and perspectives on health equity and emergency preparedness and response that is set within a rural community. Equity work is very personal for me, and the passion I have for creating solutions and opening a dialogue about equity issues shows in the quality of my work. In addition to my passion and personal motivation, my engineering mindset allows me to have a unique approach to decision making and solving problems. I believe that my non-traditional public health background gives me a different perspective that helps me see various angles of the problem. In addition to learning and growing in my own health equity skills, I plan on contributing the voices of rural Colorado to this board.

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**Please use the scale below to indicate your level of experience with the following:**

- 0 No knowledge or experience
- 1 Some knowledge around this skillset but no experience putting it into action
- 2 Moderate knowledge and experience applying the skillset
- 3 Extensive knowledge and experience applying the skillset

**Accounting:**

0

**Community Organizing:**

2

**Event Planning:**

3

**Financial Literacy:**

2

**Grant Writing:**

1

**Legal:**

0

**Marketing/PR:**

2

**Organizational Management:**

2

**Public Policy:**

1

**Risk Management:**

1

**Strategic Planning:**

2

**In which areas of CPHA do you think you could make the most contributions?:**

My position within the Equity in Emergency Preparedness (EEP) program has pushed the development of my skills in building relationships with community partners, event planning,

and organizational management. Like all issues, COVID-19 has proven to be a health equity issue and although there have been many challenges it has been a unique opportunity to apply equity principles in a real-time response situation. My current position is grant-funded, giving me the opportunity to complete quarterly deliverables and update the program's scope of work for the upcoming fiscal year. I understand the grant writing process from the perspective of a person completing grant deliverables and believe my writing and relationship building background will allow me to contribute in this area.

**Which areas of CPHA's work would be more difficult for you to make contribution?:**

Given that accounting and legal are dependent on education that I do not have, I would find it difficult to contribute to these areas. That being said, with my background in high-level mathematics, I find that I am quick to learn and efficient in problem-solving.