

# Los Angeles County Department of Public Health— Youth Advisory Council 2020-2021

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# About the Youth Advisory Council

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Youth Advisory Council is a newly formed group that started in 2019 to increase youth involvement within the Department. The Council is part of the Department's new Positive Youth Development Initiative that aims to promote positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities that build on strengths and empower next generation changemakers to reach their full potential.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Youth Advisory Council serves as a channel through which young people gain work experience, acquire new skills, develop a greater sense of empowerment and membership, and forge meaningful connections through civic engagement. Council members will work directly with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to advise and make appropriate recommendations regarding health issues of special interest to youths within the Los Angeles County, and help guide the work of the Department.

The 2020-2021 Youth Advisory Council includes 25 youth ages 16-22 residing all throughout Los Angeles County. Council members are each placed within a Service Planning Area from which they reside to engage in regional efforts to address the wellbeing of their communities. The Youth Advisory Council meets monthly, where the members come together to receive leadership training, build relationships, and work in partnership with Department leadership. Members of the council serve for one term (June 2020 to July 2021) with an option to serve a second term. The monthly meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month.

***Our mission as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Youth Advisory Council is to promote the well-being and advocate in the best interests of all youth in Los Angeles County. As a youth advisory council, we will collaborate with DPH leadership to identify large-scale health issues plaguing the community to improve the welfare of LA County youth.***

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## **Meet our 2020-2021 Youth Advisory Council Members**

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## Destiny Piña

*Service Planning Area 1 & 2  
Sr. Youth Advisor*

**Destiny Piña** is a Sophomore at Cal State University Northridge who recently changed her major to business administration with hopes to pursue her own nonprofit organization after college. Currently, Destiny is a senior youth advisor for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health where she helps with program planning and guiding the youth advisory council members in SPA 1 and 2 towards success. In addition to being Senior Youth Advisor, Destiny works for the City of Lancaster providing after school daycare to elementary school children. Her goal within the Sr. Youth Advisory Program is to promote the well-being of all youth in LA County, improve the wellness of her community to make it a healthier place to live in and provide support for current youth advisory council members in order to be successful.

In Destiny's free time she enjoys working out and playing sports such as tennis and soccer. She finds that working out and playing sports is the best way for her to stay healthy and relieve stress. In addition, Destiny enjoys the outdoors. This includes hiking in short trails going to the beach and state parks. She is encouraged every day to stand up with integrity by Abraham Lincoln's quote, "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have."



## Alyssa DeLaTorre

*Service Planning Area 3  
Sr. Youth Advisor*

**Alyssa DeLaTorre** is an eighteen-year-old attending Pasadena City College. Alyssa plans to transfer to a University to major in Psychology and a minor in dance.

Alyssa would like to become a psychologist to help teens and adults with difficult situations. In high school, she was a peer counselor in high school where students might feel most comfortable speaking to her about problems in lieu of their own counselor. She once had the privilege of being invited by Peace Over Violence for an exclusive interview about Teen Dating Violence Awareness. Alyssa also took part in an internship for LAC-USC at The Wellness Center where she worked towards the banning of flavored tobacco products in South Pasadena and Baldwin Park. She has presented various times to teach teens and adults about the harmful effects that flavored tobacco and vaping products have on the teen body.

Alyssa has been a part of the Youth Advisory Council for over a year and a half and hopes to combine her knowledge from Public Health and psychology to help her community. Alyssa is excited to see where her opportunities take her but most importantly, she hopes to make people smile and make new friendships along the way.

Alyssa loves to sing and dance and hopes to share her love of singing and dancing with others as a form of healing and expression. In her free time, she is a Disney enthusiast and won't ever pass up a day to go Disneyland.



## **Fabiola Nuñez**

*Service Planning Area 6  
Sr. Youth Advisor*

**Fabiola Nunez** is a Freshman at Cal State Fullerton University. Fabiola has many goals and believes that challenging yourself is the biggest route to success. She has a huge passion for animals and spends most of her time playing with her dog or practicing make-up. Fabiola plans to pursue a career as a veterinarian and help reduce the number of homeless animals.

Fabiola's biggest supporter has been her school counselor, who has encouraged her to step out of her comfort zone and be more involved in school activities by joining many clubs. Her biggest accomplishment took place in her high school ASB class, where she successfully organized a Halloween school event her first year.

Another of Fabiola's accomplishments was winning second place in her karate tournament. The experience taught her about her ability to push through challenges and continuously improve on her weaknesses. Fabiola's counselor also encouraged her to have more involvement outside of her school, which is why she decided to join the Youth Advisory Council. Fabiola hopes to gain more knowledge about the kind of problems her community often faces and make a positive impact.



## **Gisselle Gonzalez-Perez**

*Service Planning Area 7  
Sr. Youth Advisor*

**Gisselle Gonzalez-Perez** is a recent graduate from the Applied Technology Center in Montebello, CA. She graduated as Salutatorian and will be the first in her family to attend a four-year university. Gisselle is attending Stanford University on a pre-medicine track. She has interests in the studies of public health, medicine, and public policy. As soon as Gisselle completes her undergraduate studies, she plans to attend medical school. Her goal is to become a medical doctor to work on disease prevention and hopefully get a position for a government organization. Gisselle has been involved with the Youth Advisory Council since her junior year of high school.

Through YAC, Gisselle has been able to work alongside public health professionals to add her perspective as a youth. Gisselle is also a Los Angeles County Representative for the Friday Night Live California Youth Council. She has recently been selected as a new member for COUGH, a statewide student-led coalition of California college students who work together to create change on college campuses across the state. In her free time, Gisselle enjoys going to the beach, going on road trips, and off-roading with her family. Gisselle is looking forward to continuing her advocacy work through YAC and hopes that her hard work will provide an antidote for the growing challenges within mental, social, and physical health.



## Daniel Trigo

*Service Planning Area 7  
Senior Youth Advisor*

**Daniel Trigo** is a sophomore student at the University of Southern California. He previously attended the Applied Technology Center (ATC) High School and California State University Dominguez Hills during his first year at college. At the ATC, Daniel studied in Health-Sciences Career and Technical Education classes and learned about mental health and how it affects the human body. He also conducted a Capstone project in his senior year along with other Health-Science students in researching how tobacco advertising targets minority populations. His next goal will be to graduate college with a bachelor's degree in Psychology so that he can practice Clinical Psychology.

Outside of the classroom, he has also participated in other programs that have made an impact in his community in Montebello. He was an Energy Ambassador in the Montebello Unified School District Energy Ambassador Program throughout 2018 and helped consult with Montebello and Bell Gardens residents on reducing energy usage to help the environment. He was also involved in clubs at the ATC, such as his school's chapter National Alliance on Mental Illness, in which he has made efforts to break the stigma of mental health among his peers. During his first year at the Youth Advisory Council, he worked on multiple projects such as conducting outreach at various events through Parks After Dark, and One Degree, where 1000+ resources have now been catalogued for the SPA 7 area. He is continuing his work in the Council as a Senior Advisor to help incoming Advisors find new ways to support their communities.



## Osiris Lamon

*Service Planning Area 1*

Placement Location: Antelope Valley Public Health Center

**Osiris Lamon** is a senior at Paraclete High School in Lancaster, CA. After he graduates, Osiris hopes to attend either the University of California, Los Angeles, or the University of California, Riverside where he hopes to double major in finance and information services. Osiris's goal for the future is to become a public defender and give his all to the individuals who cannot afford a lawyer or those mistreated by the legal system. Throughout his Sophomore and Junior years Osiris maintained a 4.3 GPA. He has also been a member of the National Honor Society and the California Scholarship Federation for three years straight! Osiris participated in varsity basketball and volleyball and has been a member of the Mock Trial and Eco Clubs. In his free time, Osiris is the owner of a lawn care and landscaping business called Yard Butlers AV that has a five-star rating on Google.

As a member of the Youth Advisory Council for the Department of Public Health, Osiris hopes to track health statistics, help the homeless in his community, and give back to the younger kids in his area by teaching them about safety and public health.



## Desirae Piña

*Service Planning Area 1*

Placement Location: Antelope Valley Public Health Center

**Desirae Pina** is a senior at Antelope Valley High School. After high school Desirae plans to transfer from community college to Cal State University Northridge. She began her journey to help the community when she participated in an anti-bullying program that spread awareness about bullying and how to prevent it. Desirae served as president of Junior Senate and is currently president of Senior Senate at her high school. As president Desirae plans school activities and collaborates with her fellow classmates to achieve the best school year possible. For example, she worked on putting together Antelope Valley High School Prom. As vice president of The Society of Women's Engineers she and other students traveled to conventions and worked on exclusive projects. Desirae made sure meetings ran smoothly with the club and assisted the president. Desirae was also manager for the Boys Soccer Varsity Team for her high School where she helped fill out paperwork and made sure equipment was all in place. In addition, Desirae also works for the City of Lancaster in child day care for elementary students.

As a Youth Advisory Council Member Desirae wishes to take part in helping the community. She enjoys helping others and making a difference. She also would like to learn more about Public Health and grow her leadership skills. Desirae has hopes of becoming a voice for her peers and community. Her hobbies are social media, makeup, and tennis.



## Dakari Carroll

*Service Planning Area 2*

Placement Location:

Zev Yaroslavsky Family Support Center

**Dakari Carroll**, originally from Fairfield, CA, is a fourth-year public health student at California State University, Northridge and aspires to graduate with a bachelor's degree in Public Health in the Spring of 2021. Public health is one of Dakari's passions and she feels as though it's something often overlooked. Upon graduating she hopes to attend graduate school to further her education.

Through the Youth Advisory Council, Dakari hopes to learn more about the health issues LA County is facing. One of her goals is to expand her knowledge of public health and elevate the voices of those in need. Dakari is excited to develop a stronger network in her professional career and gain experience in the field of public health.

In her free time, Dakari loves to hike and jumps at the chance to enjoy the beauty of nature. She's also an avid painter and engages in various arts and crafts. While both a student and an artist, she hopes to one day use her art to empower the community.



## Franklin Amaya Torres

*Service Planning Area 2*

Placement Location:

Zev Yaroslavsky Family Support Center

**Franklin Amaya Torres** is a first-generation college student at California State University Northridge (CSUN). Franklin is majoring in Public Health and is in his final year in the program. His plan after obtaining a bachelor's degree is to

attend graduate school and pursue an MPH (Master of Public Health). Franklin has been involved both in school and his own community, one of them being the Youth Advisory Council for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. What he hopes to gain from the Youth Advisory Council is self-growth and communication skills. His main topics of interest are diabetes, mental health, infectious diseases, and cardiovascular disease. Franklin is involved in an organization at school called Health Education Student Organization where one of his roles in the club is to advocate for the health of the CSUN community via social media platforms. Franklin has also been involved with a non-profit organization called L.A. Works where he led volunteers in a food pantry to package food for people who are homeless and people with disabilities.

His goal in the future is to become a public health nurse and promote prevention tools – such as health screenings and preventive care visits – to improve the health of the next generation. Some hobbies of his include playing instruments like piano, drums, bass, guitar, ukulele, and trumpet. He also loves to go on adventures in his car to the mountains and taking professional photographs.





## Viviana Servin

*Service Planning Area 2*

Placement Location:  
Zev Yaroslavy Family Support Center

**Viviana Servin** is a 2020 high school graduate from Cleveland High School in Reseda, California. Viviana is interested in the medical field and public health. She began

pharmaceutical school this August and her goal is to become a pharmacist or an RN. This is her first year of being part of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Youth Advisory Council and is excited to learn about the various public health issues impacting Los Angeles County residents.

Viviana has always had a place in her heart in helping people who are homeless and who have disabilities. She volunteers regularly at the LA Mission in Skid Row distributing food and backpacks. Viviana has also donated to multiple organizations and has volunteered to help the disabled through programs hosted by the elementary school she attended.

As she prepares for her career, she looks forward to developing her skills with research, evaluations, communication, media, and most importantly, helping the community. Viviana is also excited to learn skills that can keep her physically active, mentally stimulated, and provide the satisfaction of helping others.

Viviana loves intense workouts that include hiking and lifting weights. Viviana is currently an advanced certified lash extension technician but also enjoys doing facials and threading eyebrows. Viviana loves animals and has recently rescued an adult cat and a small kitten. Her cats keep her company during the pandemic. She has also recently found homes for three other kittens.



## Andrew Cheung

*Service Planning Area 3*

Placement Location: Monrovia Public Health Center

**Andrew Cheung** is a 17-year-old senior at South Pasadena High School. Andrew's goal is to create safe and comfortable environments that students can enjoy during their high school journey, whether it be online or in person.

Andrew is the leader of a group called Peer Mediators where he helps promote mental wellbeing for the student body and resolve conflict in youth-to-youth confidential settings. He is also a part of the Associated Student Body where he is a Peer Mediator Liaison and works in collaboration with the Wellness Team to better provide health resources and activities for students, especially during these difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Andrew also participates in other school clubs such as Teaching and Sharing Skills to Enrich Lives (TASSEL) and the Red Cross club. Outside of school, he volunteers at Huntington Hospital where he assists doctors and nurses in providing welfare to patients. One of his biggest accomplishments was developing a project called CREATIONS, a week-long program that educates underclassmen on neglected issues that aren't really discussed in school. The topics included academic stress and success, communication with family and teachers, healthy relationships, and sex and gender identity. Through the DPH Youth Advisory Council, Andrew is looking forward to working alongside public health professionals and establish his own projects to better inform and support other youth like him. Public health is a career-field that deeply interests Andrew and he hopes that one day he will be able to pursue an occupation in the field.



## Noemi Vega

### *Service Planning Area 3*

Placement Location: Monrovia Public Health Center

**Noemi Vega** is a Senior at Azusa High School in Azusa, CA. Noemi plans to double-major in Public Health and Ethnic Studies, and then attend a medical program to become a surgeon. Currently,

Noemi is the Director of Organizing for her

school district's chapter for GENup, which is a student led organization involved with making crucial changes in public schools to advance and improve students' education. Noemi is also involved in sports and clubs at her school, such as Cross Country and M.E.Ch.A (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán).

One of Noemi's most recent accomplishments is becoming a Youth Advisor for the Los Angeles Department of Public Health. Here she is excited to bring about progress in issues that most concern her, such as LGBTQ+ health, mental health, systemic racism, and environmental justice. Her goal in the DPH Youth Advisory Council is to amplify the voices of youth and encourage them to strive for improvement in their communities and personal lives through education and awareness,. In her free time, Noemi loves to engage in learning and reading; her favorite authors are Sandra Cisneros and Maya Angelou. Her favorite quote is by Maya Angelou, "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style." Noemi hopes that during her time in the Youth Advisory Council she will gain long-lasting partners, networks, and experience that will be valuable for her future.



## Brianna Garcia

### *Service Planning Area 4*

Placement Location: Central Health Center

**Brianna Garcia** is a senior at Aspire Pacific Academy, located in Huntington Park. Brianna plans to apply to various colleges in pursuit of becoming a forensic psychologist. Brianna

hopes to continue her academic goals at

California State Fullerton. She is academically focused, determined, and has taken various college classes in pursuit of this goal. One of Brianna's major accomplishments is that she is a 3.00 GPA scholar at her school. Additionally, Brianna taught herself to program minor threads of java code, a computer language. She also learned how to be an image editor. Above all, Brianna is most proud of being chosen to serve on the 2020-2021 Youth Advisory Council for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

In her free time, Brianna enjoys drawing and sculpting. Her main goal is to help the community be healthier and as safe as possible. Brianna is passionate about teen mental health and hopes to gain more knowledge on this topic in her role as a Youth Advisor. Finally, Brianna hopes to gain lifelong skills, including becoming a better leader, enhancing team communication skills, and serving her community, all of which can be applied throughout her career path.



## Marlene Alvarez

*Service Planning Area 6*

Placement Location: MLK Jr. Center for Public Health

**Marlene Alvarez** is a recent graduate from Compton High School in Compton, CA. She is now a freshman at California State University, Dominguez Hills and is the first person in her family to attend college. She has many interests including mental health, communications, business, and helping those in need.

Marlene loves being involved in her community and has done an internship with Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum where she learned about airplanes and helped with fundraisers, including an event to raise money for an after-school program. Many Compton residents attended the fundraiser and Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum were able to get school supplies for the kids who couldn't afford any.

Marlene enjoys yoga, swimming, and cooking. She plans to pursue a master's degree in communications and then open a business to benefit and help others. Marlene will be working with the DPH Youth Advisory Council (YAC) this year. She is very excited to share her recommendations on improving her community's health, see some of those ideas come to life, and also serve alongside public health professionals.



## Monica Ramirez

*Service Planning Area 6*

Placement Location: MLK Jr. Center for Public Health

**Monica Ramirez** is currently a junior at King/Drew Magnet High School in Willowbrook, CA. At school, Monica is involved in a class called, "The Health Explorer," which gives her the opportunity to visit a hospital and spend time with medical workers throughout the school year.

Monica is always finding ways to gain leadership skills. She is a member of her school's leadership team in which she learns skills to lead the student activism committee. She highly enjoys informing her fellow peers about current issues in the world and ways to help. Monica is also a part of the LASD Explorer Program because she wants to be part of a change in the world.

Monica is honored that she has this opportunity to be part of the Youth Advisory Council in the Los Angeles Department of Public Health. The DPH YAC will help lead Monica in deciding her possible career field. She is interested in the medical field, but also wants to combine it with law enforcement, which is why she is interested in becoming a medical examiner. In her free time, Monica likes to work on her mental and physical well-being. She enjoys waking up early and going for a run as well as reading books ranging from the topics of self-care to business. Monica plans and hopes to continue finding opportunities to help her community with social issues for the better!



## Reh' Lynn May

*Service Planning Area 6*

Placement Location: MLK Jr. Center for Public Health

**Reh'Lynn May** is a freshman at Los Angeles South West Community College. After graduating community college, she hopes to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN). Then she plans to go return to school to earn her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and become a Midwife.

Reh'Lynn takes an interest in dance, fashion, and beauty. She believes self-care is the key to a healthy and stress-free life. During the rough times of this pandemic, Reh'Lynn has managed to start her own business making body butters and scrubs. Through her involvement with the DPH Youth Advisory Council (YAC), Reh'Lynn desires to learn how to be more aware of what's happening within her community, how to prevent gang violence, and how to educate her community about public health and safety. Just within the past two months of her involvement in YAC, Reh'Lynn has learned quite a few things in public health such as how to prevent disease and harm within the community.



## Yazmeen Williams

*Service Planning Area 6*

Placement Location: MLK Jr. Center for Public Health

**Yazmeen Williams** is a senior at San Pedro High School. Yazmeen's dream school is UC Long Beach but plans to attend a school closer to home. Yazmeen's passion is biology and has always wanted to become a marine biologist. As she has grown older, her dreams changed and now desires to major in nursing and become a nurse in order to help people.

Yazmeen has many hobbies but the most influential one is her love for makeup. Yazmeen uses makeup as a means to express herself and believes that everyone deserves to be themselves as long as they aren't hurting anyone. Yazmeen likes to bring this philosophy into every aspect of her life to make others feel seen. Yazmeen has accomplished two summer training programs with the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE). Through NFTE, Yazmeen learned what it takes to be an entrepreneur; she created an idea for her own business and participated in a competition where she pitched her idea. Yazmeen decided to join the Youth Advisory Council so that she could get experience in the medical field and be able to become more independent.



## Arnav Kacker

*Service Planning Area 7*

Placement Location: Whittier Public Health Center

**Arnav Kacker** is a high school senior at Cerritos High School in Cerritos, CA. He plans to attend college next year to study pre-medicine and then later attend medical

school. Arnav is interested in becoming an orthopedic surgeon and has taken early steps to reach this goal through his involvement with Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Biomedical Studies pathway at school. He has also been a member of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Future Health Professionals, and American Cancer Society.

Arnav is currently President of his high school's competitive math club, Mu Alpha Theta, as well as a member of the National Honor Society (NHS). Arnav is fluent in English, Spanish, and Hindi and was awarded the Seal of Biliteracy at school. Arnav is a member of the Boy Scouts of America where he has earned Eagle Scout rank and has amassed a total of 47 merit badges. He conducted an Eagle Project in which he renovated a littered and unsafe garden in Fedde Middle School with his peers.

In his free time, Arnav enjoys playing videogames with his friends and watching anime. He also volunteers at the Cerritos Library where he shelves books, manages computers, reads to kindergarteners, helps kids with homework, helps run the gift shop, and leads the annual Summer Reading Program. In 2019, he was awarded by the mayor of Cerritos for becoming the 3<sup>rd</sup> person with the most lifetime volunteer hours. Now, he is a new member of the Youth Advisory Council, where he plans on learning more about the medical field and giving back to his community.



## Liesel Arauz

*Service Planning Area 7*

Placement Location: Whittier Public Health Center

**Liesel Arauz** is a senior at Cerritos High School. Her passion is in performing arts and sharing musical theatre with others. She also has a strong passion for epidemiology and

public health. Liesel plans to double major in theater and public health in college. Her goal is to graduate with a Ph.D. in public health or epidemiology and then work for the Centers for Disease Control.

At school, Liesel spends most of her time leading, assisting, or participating in the school's theatre program. She serves as Vice President for her theater program and previously held cabinet positions where she recruited and mentored students in the program, organized club trips, and mediated support between the neighboring theater programs within her school's district. However, one of her greatest accomplishments within the program was being the first individual in 50 years to receive a Spirit of the MACYs award for being a student music director. Regarding public health, her greatest accomplishments were winning two medals in the Science Olympiad Disease Detectives event and being a plenary speaker advocating for mental health rights in front of a crowd of more than 2,000 people.

In her spare time, Liesel takes classes in dance, voice, acting and music theory. Her hobbies are script writing, animating, digital drawing, reading, and watching new series on Netflix. Liesel is honored to be a part of the Youth Advisory Council and hopes to advocate for health accessibility and equity for marginalized and minority communities.



## Neelesh Kumar

*Service Planning Area 7*

Placement Location: Whittier Public Health Center

**Neelesh Kumar** is currently a senior at Cerritos High School. After high school, Neelesh plans to attend college where he will start his pre-med program and then attend medical school to become physician. Neelesh participated in the Science Olympiad and Model United Nations (MUN) teams. In his junior year, he flew out to New York and participated in an international conference with over 30 countries represented where his school ranked among the top 5.

Outside of school, Neelesh volunteers as a Junior Health Scholar at St. Mary's Hospital and spends his time helping nurses and shadowing doctors. He also enjoys playing tennis both for his school team and as a hobby. During 2017, he competed in the regionals match for Junior team tennis and won 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. Neelesh decided to join the DPH Youth Council because he wanted to learn more about public health and make a larger difference in his community. He hopes to support his community cope with mental health issues as well as bring more attention to how current environment crises are affecting the health of multiple communities near his area.



## Evan Bowman

*Service Planning Area 8*

Placement Location: Curtis R Tucker Center Public Health Center

**Evan Bowman** is a 16-year-old junior at The Archer School for Girls where she participates in the Speech and Debate team, Invention and Product Development team, Diversity Conference Leadership Team, and the Black Student Union Leadership Board. Outside of school, she is a civically engaged advocate using her voice to stand up for disadvantaged and marginalized communities. Evan is a member of the Youth Advisory Council of Black Women for Wellness, a nonprofit, where she hosts a podcast for the promotion of sexual health and wellness for young Black women. She also serves on the Teen Leadership Board of the nonprofit agency Hope in a Suitcase, volunteers for the Red Cross and is the national and Far West Regional Teen Foundation Chair for Jack and Jill of America Foundation. In her free time Evan enjoys reading science fiction, boxing, and spending time with her family and friends.

Evan strives to serve her community throughout her career. She plans to major in public health before pursuing her medical degree. Evan became interested in public health after studying as a Charles Drew University Public Health Academy Opportunity Scholar. Most recently, Evan joined the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Youth Advisory Council to represent her community and advocate for health and wellness.



## Ivonne Galicia

### Service Planning Area 8

Placement Location: Curtis R. Tucker Public Health Center

**Ivonne Galicia** is a 16-year-old senior at Animo Inglewood Charter High School. Ivonne plans to major in political science and minor in Spanish at the University of Southern California. Ivonne has entered speech contests hosted by Los Angeles City Hall for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. She has co-organized her own Black Lives Matter protest that included the mayor of Inglewood, the city where Ivonne is growing up. She learned about the Youth Advisory Council through a family friend. Although it is only her first year with the program, she is very excited to bring positive change to her community. Her next goal is to create new public policies with the Department of Public Health to ensure the people of Inglewood receive proper sanitization supplies to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Ivonne is an activist with her high school's Black Student Union, a club that educates high school students on racial inequality among the black community. She is co-captain of her school's competitive cheer team and has been able to lead their victory to nationals 3 years in a row. Ivonne also participates in Youth and Government, through which she successfully advocated at the CA state capitol senate chambers for the passage of a vaccine bill that Governor Newsom later signed. Ivonne is also part of Michelle Obama's When We All Vote, where the mission is to change voting culture and encourage teens to be active in politics. Ivonne spends most of her weekends and weekday afternoons working a job in retail. Ivonne is very excited for her future and plans to run for city council one day to further help her community.



## Morgan McIntosh

### Service Planning Area 8

Placement Location: Curtis R. Tucker Public Health Center

**Morgan McIntosh** is a junior attending Marymount High School. After high school, she plans on attending college and focusing on directing and writing in the entertainment field. Since childhood, she has always found herself with a drive for creating films and hopes to go into film production when she's older. Morgan's interests include creative writing, drawing, filming, and baking.

Morgan has earned significant achievements through her hobbies, such as receiving an academic certificate for fables that she wrote during sophomore year and winning an art cover school contest. These achievements have encouraged and inspired her to continue exploring her love for digital art and writing. In addition to these accomplishments, Morgan also received a Departmental Distinction Award in September 2020 where she was recognized for her outstanding work in the 2020-2019 academic year. She also had the privilege and honor of being part of the Mayor's Youth Council, a team that focuses on relevant economic issues throughout the LA Area and meets with LA Mayor Eric Garcetti at the end of every year. Last year, she and her team discussed the issue of plastic usage in LAUSD Public Schools and provided solutions that can be implemented to decrease the utilization of plastic and other toxic substances in schools.

Morgan is now a Youth Advisor for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and aims to make a positive impact on others with the hope that her work will contribute to improving the social, physical, and mental well-being of those in her community.



## Tamara Soberanis

*Service Planning Area 8*

Placement Location: Curtis R. Tucker Public Health Center

**Tamara Soberanis** is a freshman college student at West Los Angeles Community College. Tamara's aunt who is a nurse has been her biggest role model who inspired her to achieve her dream of becoming a nurse herself. Tamara's current major is Nursing and one of her aspirations is to earn her master's in nursing and then return to her country of Belize to help with the health of her community.

One of her most exciting accomplishments was graduating and receiving her high school diploma given that there were many who doubted her and said she wasn't ever going to make it out of high school. She was ecstatic knowing she proved them wrong now that she is in now in her first year of college and a member of the Los Angeles Department of Public Health Youth Advisory Council.

Tamara's hobbies and interests include reading fanfiction drama books and drawing. She also enjoys listening to music, which makes her feel peace and puts her in a positive state of mind. As a Youth Advisor, she hopes to learn more about the Department of Public Health and is interested to pursue public health as one of her majors. She also hopes to gain better presentation and public speaking skills. Due to the lack of resources in her community, Tamara feels compelled to support her beloved community by being a good example and empowering her community.



## Ricardo Almanza

*Service Planning Area 8*

Placement Location: Curtis R. Tucker Public Health Center

**Ricardo Almanza** is a senior at Da Vinci Science and is now a member of the Youth Advisory Council. After high school, he is determined to pursue higher education as a first-generation college student. He plans on studying and pursuing a career in medicine.

Ricardo Almanza was introduced to the field of Public Health in his junior through his involvement with an organization called the Social Justice Learning Institute (SJLI). Through SJLI's Urban Health Fellowship program, Ricardo conducted research on how a community garden could decrease the cases of dietary diseases in a low-income community. Ricardo also surveyed his community to better understand the possible impact of a community garden. He presented his findings to an audience of over 70 people that included families and public health professionals. This research project further ignited his passion for public health and desire to support his community. Outside of academics, Ricardo loves listening to music – this is not only very therapeutic for him but also fuels his productivity. He turned his passion for music into a leadership opportunity by pioneering "Music Convos," a club at Da Vinci Science where students can discuss different topics highlighted in music and share music that has helped them get through the week.

Ricardo is passionate about being a Youth Advisory Council member for the Los Angeles Department of Public Health and hopes to leverage this opportunity to become more educated on public health issues, contribute to his newfound knowledge, and bring forth a larger conversation that could bring change to his community and beyond.