



Anatomy of a Crisis: Impact of Racism on Public Health in America

Episode 2: Building Inclusive, Powerful, and Healthy Communities

Join Denesha Snell and Qiana Thomason, CEO of the Health Forward Foundation, as they discuss solutions to address systemic racism and build health and wealth for whole community wellness.

Produced by the Kansas City Public Library in partnership with the Kansas City, Missouri Health Department

Host: [Denesha Snell](#), Member, Library Board of Trustees and Program Director, American Public Square

Denesha Snell, a Kansas City native, is program director for American Public Square. Denesha has devoted her career to address community issues including parent advocacy, cultural diversity, causes of health disparities, violence prevention and improving relationships with community and civic partners. She holds a BS from Tennessee State University and a Master of Education from Rockhurst University.

Guest: Qiana Thomason, CEO [Health Forward Foundation](#)

Qiana is president/CEO of Health Forward Foundation. She previously served as vice president of community health and health equity at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City (Blue KC). Prior to her tenure at Blue KC, Thomason spent eight years at Swope Health as the director of clinical operations for behavioral health and program manager of the multi-municipality Mental Health Court. She also served as deputy director and health and human services liaison for United States Senator Jean Carnahan.

References:

[Health Forward Foundation](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/healthforwardkc/>

<https://twitter.com/HealthForwardKC>

<https://www.instagram.com/healthforwardkc/>

[Purpose Areas: People, Power, Place](#)

[Social Determinants of Health](#)

[Kansas City Public Library Reading and Resource List](#)

Production/Credits

Editing: Denesha Snell, David LaCrone

Podcast Artwork: Jennifer Su



Original Artwork: [Lizbeth Alvarez](#) is an art studio major at UMKC. She chose this career because it's important for her to do what she loves and show others about art. She's an aspiring teacher because and loves to see the creativity of others and how we can use art to communicate and express ourselves. She is working on completing her portfolio and looks forward to new experiences and opportunities.

Development Committee: Kamera Meaney (co-chair), Jeni Starr (co-chair), Russell Anderson, Quint Hall, Cheryl Hampton, Amelia McDaniel, Monica Miller, Rita Strickland