

Eiryn Griest Schwartzman, CHES®

Health Policy Researcher | Health Educator | Advocate for Disability Justice in Public Health
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Professional interests: health and higher education policy, social & legal epidemiology, COVID-19 mitigation, infection-associated chronic illness, disability health equity, harm reduction, science communication

EDUCATION

University of Michigan School of Public Health Ann Arbor, MI
Master of Public Health August 2023 – August 2026 (expected)
Population and Health Sciences
Applied Epidemiology Certificate Program

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) Baltimore, MD
Bachelor of Arts, Public Health January 2019 – December 2021
Population Health Concentration, Sociology Minor
Magna cum laude

Howard Community College Columbia, MD
Associate of Arts, General Studies January 2014 – December 2018*
Concentration in Public Health
*Degree awarded in December 2021

CERTIFICATIONS & SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Certified Health Education Specialist (#36754) May 2022 – Present
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing

Certificate in Disability Advocacy September 2018
The George Washington University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022–present **Executive Director**
COVID Safe Campus (CSC) – Remote

- Manage infectious disease prevention program focused on mutual aid and peer health education, supporting disabled student leaders distributing 30,000+ N95 and KN95 masks in their communities
- Conduct policy surveillance, needs assessments, and qualitative research related to organization priorities, analyzes complex data sets, authors reports, and presents findings in accessible formats
- Build interdisciplinary partnerships, co-developing research, advocacy, and policy action campaigns aligned with shared goals
- Develop technical assistance products on best practice COVID mitigation strategies, disability inclusion, and campus policies in higher education

- Lead disability-centered public health advocacy through facilitating community engagement, coalition building, and educating stakeholders
- Advise coalitions and public health experts on incorporating Disability Justice into policy and public health practice
- Strategize dissemination of research findings through data visualizations, open access databases, and social media
- Manage nonprofit operations, project management, program planning, and supervision of volunteers

2022

Research Assistant

Doogri Institute – Remote

- Provided technical assistance with the collection of data
- Participated in method philosophy for data and analysis on disability related research

2021–2022

Program Analyst

Topeka Independent Living Resource Center (TILRC) – Topeka, KS

- Conducted research, analyzed complex data sets and systems, identified trends and best practices, and prepared reports and recommendations on mental health program development and civil rights compliance
- Supported and advised the Executive Director in identifying and evaluating programs, operations, and processes related to community-based long term mental health services and supports for people with mental health conditions

2021

COVID-19 Compliance Officer

“That Bag Doesn’t Fit Two” – Short film, Towson University – Towson, MD

- Developed and delivered educational COVID-19 safety and health literacy trainings for all cast and crew on the production
- Managed COVID-19 safety plan, testing coordination, and PPE acquisition throughout production

2019–2020

Peer Health Educator

UMBC University Health Services – Baltimore, MD

- Assisted with campus health events related to various areas of health promotion concerning the college population including mental health, substance use, and sexual health
- Collaborated with a team of peers to deliver educational programming to students on health behavior and literacy

2018

Accessibility Rights Intern

Equal Rights Center – Washington, D.C.

American Association of People With Disabilities Summer Intern Program

- Organized launch event and designed promotional materials for Access A11y, an app and database documenting and reviewing the accessibility features of buildings and businesses in the Washington, D.C. metro area.
- Provided guidance on targeted community engagement
- Observed and collected data used to evaluate civil rights compliance and completed detailed reports in a timely manner

PUBLICATIONS & ACADEMIC PRODUCTS

Peer Reviewed Articles

Jirmanus L, Valenti R, **Griest Schwartzman E**, Frey L, Friedman S, Thompson Fullilove M. (2024). Too Many Deaths, Too Many Left Behind: A People's External Review of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID-19 Pandemic Response. American Journal of Preventive Medicine Focus. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.focus.2024.100207>

James TG, Argenyi MS, McKee MM, Wilson JAB, Sullivan MK, **Griest Schwartzman E**, Anderson M. (2022). Communication Access In Mental Health And Substance Use Treatment Facilities For Deaf American Sign Language Users. Health Affairs, 41(10), 1413–1422. <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2022.00408>

*This article was the 7th most read article in Health Affairs in 2022 and cited in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services updates to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Posters

From public health to public threat: A Disability Justice perspective on the criminalization and prohibition of face masks at the institutional level in higher education

Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; 2025 November. **Griest Schwartzman E**, Thomas A, Hughes M, Mantis A, Kington S, Sun V.

From institutional to individual responsibility: An analysis of how top US public health schools abandoned COVID-19 mitigation policies

Emerging Scholars Plus, Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; 2023 November. **Griest Schwartzman E**, Matas KJ, Thomas A, Hughes M., Simon S, Wang C.

COVID Mitigation is Disability Access: An analysis of COVID policies at Institutions of Higher Education across the United States.

Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association; 2022 November. **Griest Schwartzman EA**, Matas KJG, and Bergan CA.

**Mental healthcare access for deaf American Sign Language users:
Assessing Affordable Care Act Section 1557 compliance among mental
health and substance use treatment facilities.**

Annual Research Meeting of AcademyHealth; 2022 June.

James TG, Argenyi MS, Guardino DL, McKee MM, Wilson JAB, Sullivan MK,
Griest Schwartzman E, Anderson M.

Invited Presentations

Featured mentoring pairs from the Disability Section Mentoring Program.

Disability Section, Annual Meeting of the Public Health Association; 2022

Mitra M, Twardzik E, James TG, **Griest Schwartzman E**.

Editorial letters

Jirmanus LZ, **Griest Schwartzman E**, Davids J.D., Gullette MM, Killick C.

Universal Masking in Health Care Settings [Editorial]. Ann Intern

Med.2023;176:eL230350. [Epub 19 December 2023].

[doi:10.7326/L23-0350](https://doi.org/10.7326/L23-0350)

Informal Publications

Jirmanus L, Valenti R, **Griest Schwartzman E**, Simon-Ortiz S, Havstad L,
Wallace R, Ludwig D, Allen T, Garoon J, Ritchie D, Rose Kaufman M,
Friedman SR, Thompson Fullilove M. (2023). People's External Review of
the CDC. *People's CDC*.

<https://peoplescdc.org/too-many-deaths-too-many-left-behind-a-peoples-external-review-of-the-cdc/>

ADVOCACY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Invited Presentations

**Sowing Safety: Cultivating Protections and Weeding Out Harmful Policies
During the Ongoing Pandemic**

Panelists: Ngozi Alston, Emi Kane, and Eiryn Griest Schwartzman, for the
Autistic Self Advocacy Network 2024 Gala. October 2024.

Disability Justice and COVID-19

Guest speaker presentation by Eiryn Griest Schwartzman and Stacie Hipp for the
Marked By COVID Community Meetings series. June 2022.

**Promoting a Campus Culture Embracing Students with
Chronic Medical Disabilities**

Panelists: Eiryn Griest Schwartzman, Syreeta Nolan, and Alicia Wackerly-Painter
Generation Patient, Medical Disabilities and Higher Education Roundtable.
March 2022.

Centering Disabled & High Risk Students in COVID Safety Advocacy on Campus

Training presented by Eiryn Griest Schwartzman to the American College Health Association, CoVAC Initiative Digital Peer Network. February 2022.

Chronic Pain, Opioids and Disability

Oral presentation by Lindsay Baran, Sarah Blahovec, and Eiryn Griest Schwartzman to the: National Disability Leadership Alliance (NDLA) Organizer's Forum. August 2018.

Conference Presentations

OCD and Chronic Illness: Concrete Ways to Navigate the Difficulties of Living With Both

Session presented by Eiryn Griest Schwartzman, CHES, Emily DeSalvatore, MS, LPC-MHSP, Natalia Nottingham, and Max Wilson at the International OCD Foundation Conference. November 2022.

Chronic Pain and the Opioid Crisis 102: Mobilizing for Chronic Pain and Substance Use Disorder Advocacy In Your Community

Workshop presented by Lindsay Baran, Sarah Blahovec, and Eiryn Griest Schwartzman at the National Council on Independent Living Annual Conference. Washington D.C. July 2019.

Coming Out: On Disclosure of LGBTQ+ Status and Chronic Illness

Oral presentation by Abby Picard and Eiryn Griest Schwartzman at the 9th Annual DC LGBTQA Symposium. George Mason University. November 2014. Fairfax, VA.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Grants

- 2023 **Awesome Foundation Disability Chapter January Award**
COVID Safe Campus Ambassador Program (mutual aid & peer health education)
Role: Executive Director

Awards

- 2025 **APHA Disability Section Career Enhancement Scholarship**
American Public Health Association
- 2023– **Merit Scholarship Recipient**
University of Michigan School of Public Health
- 2022 **Public Health Internship Award**
University of Maryland, Baltimore County Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Public Health
Awarded in recognition of excellence for program analysis and evaluation work at Topeka Independent Living Resource Center conducted as part of the public

health internship practicum for the Fall 2021 semester.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

2018–2021 National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) – Washington, D.C.
At-Large Board Member – served on the Chronic Pain & Opioid Task Force, Executive Search Committee, Diversity Committee, and Human Resources Committee

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

- 2023–2024 **Co-facilitator**
VaxPlus Coalition – Remote
- Co-facilitated national coalition of organizations and individuals working on COVID prevention efforts
 - Coalition member since February 2022
- 2022–2023 **Collaborator**
People's CDC – Remote
- Conducted analysis and evaluation related to the COVID-19 response as part of an interdisciplinary volunteer team
 - Co-led development of study methodology, including survey design
 - Contributed to Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal Analysis, Writing–Original Draft, Review and Editing for the [People's External Review of the CDC](#)
 - Advised on accessibility best practices
- 2012–2017 **Founder and Program Facilitator**
The Literal Heart – Washington D.C.
The Literal Heart was a 300+ member support group for young adults and teenagers with chronic illnesses in the D.C. Metro Area
- Delivered crisis support, wrap-around services, patient and disability rights education, advocacy skill building, health literacy education, and program development
 - Led development and implementation of the strategic plan

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Harm Reduction in Clinical Praxis, Keck School of Medicine.
September 2021 and September 2022

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member, American College Health Association (ACHA), 2023–present
Member, American Public Health Association (APHA), 2022–present
Member, International OCD Foundation (IOCDF), 2020–2022

MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2023 [Grassroots efforts emerge to keep masks in hospitals](#)
Paige Twenter, Becker's Clinical Leadership & Infection Control
- 2023 [Immunocompromised, chronically ill people object to Baltimore hospitals' decisions to drop masking](#)
Angela Roberts, The Baltimore Sun
- 2023 [Three Years Later, Covid-19 Is Still a Health Threat. Journalism Needs to Reflect That](#)
Kendra Pierre-Louis, Nieman Reports
- 2022 [Campuses Are Going Back to Normal. This Group Has One Message: Stop.](#)
Sylvia Goodman, The Chronicle of Higher Education
- 2022 [Fall's Mask Mandate Outlook](#)
Colleen Flaherty, Inside Higher Ed
- 2022 [Disability advocates: Don't drop COVID-19 safety measures](#)
Josh Moody, Inside Higher Ed
- 2021 ['Normal didn't work for us': People with disabilities worry about loss of virtual options](#)
Kerry Breen, Today.com
- 2019 [The continuing struggle for accessibility](#)
Heather Fitzgerald, The Retriever
- 2017 [The resistance is making one last all-out push to kill the GOP health bill](#)
Jeff Stein, Vox