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*Taking Action!
Keeping our Children, Schools, Families,
and our Communities healthy and safe!*



*Inclusion of all Diversity in our Communities:
Keeping All Children and Families Healthy and Safe!*

A Panel Discussion with Moderator Mathew J Rodriguez

Panelists: Eileen Dern, Michael Henry, Lisa Jackson and Juan San Miguel

Our purpose is to initiate community-wide **robust conversations on **diversity** and **inclusion**. Our panel will focus on assuring that **all people** have the opportunity to be **healthy** and **safe**. Let's **engage** with our experts and join in with them with our questions, ideas and **commitment** to this goal.**

This forum discussion will be from 1:30 - 2:15 in the Auditorium at the 2017 Mass PTA Health Summit on November 16, directly following our afternoon Keynote Speaker, Dr. Katherine Grimes, MD.

*Join us for a Panel Discussion on Diversity in our Communities;
Keeping All Children and Families Healthy!*

Meet our Panelists :

Matthew John Rodriguez (Moderator) is an active and committed public servant, championing the well being of ALL children, particularly the most vulnerable. Matthew's volunteer and civic engagement efforts, including 17 years volunteering with local, regional, and state PTA units, has focused on particular issues facing youth in the juvenile justice system and those suffering from bullying. In his current role as President of the Illinois Parent Teacher Association. He currently represents IL PTA on over a dozen state and federal committees and councils including the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education. He is the Governor's P-20 Family Engagement Committee Chair, and the LULAC Vice President of Youth for the state education chapter. Matthew is the proud father of two sons, Mateo and Joshua, ages 22, and 7, who are the reason why he became engaged in education. They are also his inspiration for advocating on behalf of ALL children and families by empowering other parents to do the same. In addition to his passion for the community, Matthew is a skilled mechanic. He has worked in aviation for 25 years and currently manages the aircraft maintenance-planning department at United Airlines. He also serves as the chair of Latin American Affairs for United as part of their multicultural business resource group.

Eileen Dern, RN, CES has been a registered nurse for 42 years, and devoted much of her career to a simple but powerful philosophy—to make lasting improvements in the health of a community requires, above all, a willingness to build and nurture partnerships between healthcare providers, civic and school leaders, public safety officials, and other community agencies. Together, these partnerships can, with local residents, identify and address the full spectrum of issues impacting health and wellness. Eileen has been the Director, Community Services for Hallmark Health System since 2009. Prior to working at Hallmark Health System, Eileen was a Program Specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the Food and Nutrition Division and has also worked as a Program Resource Specialist for the Healthy Families Massachusetts Program.

Michael Henry is an active member of the Manthala George Jr. Elementary School PTA a K-5 in Brockton, Massachusetts with 900+ students. In 2016, Michael became President of the George School PTA while continuing to chair the Sponsorship/Partnership Committee. Michael is a proud husband and father of two children, son Tyler age 21 and daughter Dominique age 9, who are the reasons why he became more engaged in education. Michael believes that our children's "future is our business," in which he tries to instill with the parents. In addition, Michael currently volunteers on the Massachusetts PTA Health & Wellness Committee, President of the Bridgewater State University Afro-American Alumni Association, and Board Member of the Bridgewater State University Alumni Board while working as a Project Manager Consultant. Michael has also served on the boards of Young Professionals Network of the Urban League of Eastern MA, Massachusetts Hall of Black Achievement (HOBA) and Boys & Girls Clubs Medford & Somerville (formerly Boys & Girls Clubs of Middlesex County).

Lisa Jackson, MS RD LDN With a passion for food and a fascination for its ability to bring people together, Lisa completed her undergraduate and graduate studies in nutrition at the University of Rhode Island and became a dietitian. Lisa began her career inspiring children that living healthy can be both fun and tasty through the delivery of nutrition education and food experimentation with Rhode Island's SNAP-Education Program. After many years of switching gears and focusing on clinical nutrition at multiple hospitals, Lisa was determined to return to public service and found her way to Massachusetts ESE and its nutrition education and training unit. As an educational specialist in nutrition and school wellness, Lisa collaborates with colleagues to develop and conduct trainings that inform and embolden communities to deliver delicious and nutritious meals to children everywhere.

Juan San Miguel currently owns Louisa's Legacy providing Care Coordination, Private Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Trustee services to vulnerable adults and the elderly in Alaska. He is often contacted by fellow professionals to assist in complex cases as well as request for assistance from family members of people looking for home and community based services for their loved ones. Juan takes pride in helping people in his community. Juan graduated from Bethlehem Catholic High School, Central Texas College (Associate in General Studies), and Alaska Pacific University (Bachelor in Organizational Management). He has attended Leadership Anchorage as well as numerous leadership courses in the military.