

## **Cork Healthy Cities – Steering Group Team Members**

### **Denise Cahill (Coordinator)**

Denise is the Healthy Cities Co-coordinator in Cork City. She has worked as a researcher in the area of Public Health and has been employed in the area of health promotion for the past 16 years. Denise has worked in the areas of Schools Health Promotion, Physical Activity and Tobacco Control. In more recent years she has developed her understanding and commitment to community health promotion and has coordinated the health profile of Cork City in support of World Health Organisation recognition of Cork as a Healthy City in 2012. Through the Healthy Cities structure Denise has developed skills to support the development of partnerships between and among the community, voluntary and statutory sectors in the area of health promotion.

### **Jim O'Donovan [Chair Cork Healthy Cities Steering Group]**

Completed an MA in Local Government Management in the Institute of Public Administration in 2005 - Dissertation on Docklands Renewal projects. Jim has worked for Cork Corporation as a Clerical Officer 1972; Kinsale UDC as a Town Clerk in 1978; Cork Corporation in various Grades to 1991. In 1991 Jim became the Cork Corporation Assistant Town Clerk and in 1999 the Waterford County Council Director of Community & Enterprise. Jim returned to Cork City Council as Director of Services, Planning & Development 2001- 2005 and became Director of Services Community and Enterprise Cork City Council 2006 to 2012 and Director of Services Cork City Council until 2016. Jim is the chair of Cork Healthy Cities Steering Group.

### **Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald**

Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald is the political representative for Cork Healthy Cities. Tony was elected to Cork City Council in 2004, 2009 and 2014, Deputy Mayor in 2001/2012 and Lord Mayor in 2017/2018. Tony has a keen interest in cities as drivers for health and is currently Chair of the Political Vision Group for the WHO European Healthy Cities and recently has been elected to the Advisory Committee at European level also. Tony is also a member of the Joint Policing Committee, Corporate Policy Group and Chair of the Housing SPC Committee in Cork City Council.

### **Antonio Santos [Social Media Business Evangelist & Senior Data Intelligence Atos]**

Antonio Santos is a Social Media Business Evangelist and Senior Data Intelligence Expert, at Atos, focusing on Digital Inclusion, Social Media Engagement, and Social Business.

He is a Sociologist with expertise on Applied Research; he previously worked in the Media, Military, Public Sector and Telecom before joining Siemens IT and Atos.

Antonio is a recognised leader and social media influencer on Digital Transformation, Accessibility, Digital Inclusion, Future of Work, Augmented Reality, Connected Home, and Security.

Antonio provides digital consultancy across the different sectors of the organisation specialising in Business Intelligence, Customer Experience, Social Business and Social Media Analytics.

Extensive experience with Global Organisations, social enterprise technology, digital transformation and transition projects in multicultural work environments around the world.

**Brian Kelleher [Manager NICHE Health Project Cork]**

Brian Kelleher is manager of the NICHE Health Project Cork (NICHE) in the Northside of Cork city. Having worked with the Central Bank of Ireland and most recently with the Young Knocknaheeny ABC programme, Brian brings a cross range of skills, knowledge and experience to the role. Working primarily within Knocknaheeny and Hollyhill, NICHE aims to improve the health, wellbeing and quality of life of the local community. As part of its core mission, NICHE looks to collaborate with other organisations to develop actions that improve and sustain health and wellbeing outcomes of the area. As a member of the Cork Healthy Cities steering group, NICHE looks to use its position to collaborate with other organisations and to highlight the role of community in the implementation of local, national and international initiatives from a holistic health perspective.

**Daniel Flynn [Clinical Psychologist HSE]**

Daniel Flynn is a Clinical Psychologist and Principal Psychology Manager co-ordinating Adult and Child/Adolescent Mental Health Services in the HSE across Cork County. Daniel graduated from UCC with a degree in Applied Psychology and Masters in Health Psychology. He subsequently trained as a Clinical Psychologist with the Psychological Society of Ireland and the University of Ulster in Jordanstown.

Daniel has accumulated 20 years' experience of working in mental health service in Ireland. His clinical interests are in working with individuals who struggle to regulate emotions and engage in high risk self-harm behaviours. He is also interested in the impact of these behaviours on families. He has been involved in delivering interventions, training staff and researching in this area using a model known as Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT). He has a number of academic journal publications and has presented at local and international conferences on this area. Daniel is also involved in training Clinical Psychology staff and is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in the School of Applied Psychology in UCC.

**Dr Martin Davoren [Executive Director Sexual Health Centre Cork]**

Dr. Martin Davoren is Executive Director of the Sexual Health Centre, an organisation which works towards a future where sexual health is recognised as an integral part of life,

barriers to access sexual health services are removed, social stigma and discrimination are challenged, each individual feels safe to express their sexuality, and people make informed decisions regarding their sexual wellbeing and treat each other's life choices with the utmost respect. Martin also holds an adjunct lecturer position with the School of Public Health, University College Cork. Previously, Martin worked as a lecturer and researcher in the School of Public Health, University College Cork.

**Henry Smithson [GP and Department of General Practice UCC]**

Henry Smithson is a General Practitioner who works at Hollyhill Medical Practice and UCC. Henry has an interest in how people can live with and manage their long term conditions and how general practice can work with patients to improve outcomes and reduce stigma. Henry also teaches in the Department of General Practice in University College Cork.

**Judy Cronin [Health Informatics Manager, Dept. of Public Health, HSE]**

Judy Cronin B.A., M.A, M.L.I.S., and M.Sc.: Health Informatics Manager, Department of Public Health (Cork & Kerry) Health Service Executive has been a steering group member on the Cork Healthy Cities Steering Group since 2010. Areas of interest include health intelligence, health improvement and population health.

**Martha Halbert [Coordinator Cork City Public Participation Network]**

Martha Halbert is the Coordinator of the Cork City Public Participation Network, which comprises over 140 member organisations from across the third sector. These groups range from long-established charities and community development organisations to much smaller residents' associations and local interest groups. The purpose of the network is primarily to forge a link between the third sector and policy and decision making in local government, as well as to give a voice to those who are not heard in traditional democratic spheres.

Martha comes from a professional background of environmental and climate change. Previous to working with the PPN, she worked at Keep Scotland Beautiful, which provided support to public sector organisations to achieve climate change targets set down by Scottish Government. Since returning to Cork, she has been inspired and heartened by the remarkable community development initiatives which are such an intrinsic part of City life.

**Martin Ryan [Suicide Resource Prevention Officer HSE]**

I have over 21 years of direct work with young people in all settings. My main skills lay in setting up new youth services and making sure that they are young person centred ensuring smooth running with good practice and youth centred approach. I have both national and international youth work experience, I believe in working for a strengths

based model where all young people and all people have a right to be part of a positive community and have something to offer.

In 2011 I joined Yap Ireland with the view of setting up yap regional services for young people most at need. My main focus is to establish, run and develop quality services for young people that respond to the needs of families and young people. I developed services in cork city and county, Limerick, Clare 7 North Tipp.

During my time in Yap we developed a very positive and talented team that had central core values of inclusion and strengths.

In 2014 I joined the HSE Midwest/South mental health as a suicide resource prevention officer the aim again is to support the community and all community stakeholders with positive mental health strategies in a strengths based approach .I returned to Cork as the suicide prevention officer in 2016 to develop the local action plan for suicide prevention and self.

This involved working with all community and clinical stakeholders to ensure that we have one plan for the city and county .We are currently at implementation stage of this plan .Part of my role highlighted prevention such as working with companies and workplaces through national campaigns such as the Green Ribbon and Little Things mental health promotion and supporting companies and workplaces in addressing sigma across all sectors. Another part of my role is responding to suicides and the needs of families and communities dealing with theses tragic events.

Recently I give workshops /lectures on Suicide Prevention in UCC Public Health Masters programme and degree programme.

**Michelle Syron [Programme Manager, School of Public Health, UCC]**

Michelle Syron is the Programmes Manager at UCC's School of Public Health. This School of Public Health delivers a BSc in Public Health Sciences (campus-based), a Master of Public Health and MSc in Occupational Health (both Masters programme are available on campus or 100% online). The School's vision is to be at the heart of society's organised efforts to prevent disease and to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of the population. My background is in sales and management. Michelle returned to education in 2009 and completed UCC's BSc in Public Health and Health Promotion, followed by an MSc in International Human Resource Management at UL. Michelle has a keen interest in how the built environment can influence the health of its community.

**Priscilla Lynch [Head of Service Health & Wellbeing HSE]**

*Priscilla Lynch* joined the Health Service Executive in 2001. Since then she has worked in a number of acute and community services including paediatrics, medical personnel, oral health, social inclusion, mental health services and health and wellbeing. She is

currently the Head of Health & Wellbeing for Cork and Kerry and has been in this role since 2017. This role involves leading major organisational change initiatives in line with government policy and she is enjoying the challenging environment in this field of work. Priscilla holds an MSc in Health Leadership. Prior to working with the HSE she worked with a private company involved in the Public Relations Sector. She says working in the health & wellbeing arena is one that fits comfortably with her and it has taught her a lot about partnerships and participation.

**Siobhán O'Dowd [Community Worker/Co-ordinator Ballyphehane/Togher CDP]**

Siobhán O'Dowd is a community worker and co-ordinates Ballyphehane Togher CDP a community anchor project in the South West of Cork City. This project has collaborated on many city-wide initiatives to support collective efforts for change including the Community Health Network which Siobhán represents on the Cork Healthy Cities believing the importance of building healthy communities and recognizing the impacts of the social determinants of health, particularly on disadvantaged communities. Ballyphehane Togher CDP, represented by Siobhán supports and engages in a number of collaborative and Inter-Agency initiatives in the city including CESCA – alliance of community groups for equality, Cork LGBT Inter-Agency Steering group, Cork Learning Neighbourhoods and the Age Friendly initiative.