

# SONNET

## Social Needs Network for Evaluation and Translation

SPRING 2023

### SONNET welcomes Meagan Brown to leadership team and bids a fond farewell to Cara Lewis

A message from SONNET Director Katie Coleman

Spring is always a time of transition. And so it was for SONNET this year, as we **welcomed Meagan Brown** as our new associate director while saying a grateful goodbye to former co-director Cara Lewis. In early April, Cara embarked on a new role as deputy director of the [Center for Translation Research and Implementation Science](#) at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.



(R-L) Cara Lewis and Meagan Brown, with members of the KP Washington social health integration team, Ammarah Mahmud and Sophia Mun

**With every change, there is an opportunity for growth.** While we're sad to see Cara go, it's hard not to be excited about SONNET's future with Meagan at the leadership table. Meagan is a collaborative scientist at Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute and a member of SONNET's Evaluation and Research Committee ([ERC](#)). She brings deep expertise in scientific methods, health equity, and intersectionality, and she has been instrumental in setting SONNET's strategic direction via the priorities for learning and action agenda. Meagan is also leading the completion of Kaiser Permanente's 2022 national social health survey and the upcoming final report. We're eager to harness her energy, learn from her ideas, and benefit from her leadership and unique expertise.

**We also want to offer a hearty congratulations to Cara** — an internationally renowned leader in implementation science who now has a rare seat at the policy and funding table. We will all miss her leadership, sharp intellect, warmth, and humor. But Cara's new opportunity also brings a wave of excitement to SONNET as we consider the intersection of social health and implementation science. As Cara said so well at her last meeting with the SONNET ERC, **"Social health is a critical pathway toward equitable care.** But social care itself faces many implementation challenges, and there's a lot of work to be done. I'm eager to expedite practical implementation science, center equity, and elevate social health. I'll be rooting for SONNET with excitement and support as you continue to lead the field."

So, on behalf of SONNET's coordinating center — and with a huge thank you to Cara and hearty welcome to Meagan — we wish you all a fabulous summer! Please [stay in touch](#), and let us know what new adventures you're embarking on to advance social health.

Sincerely,  
Katie

### KP National Social Health Survey 2022: A preview of results to be released this summer

Led by SONNET and Associate Director Meagan Brown, the 2022 survey will provide insight into KP members' social needs over time and across demographics and lines of business

**Kaiser Permanente's 2022 National Social Health Survey (SHS) is a follow up to our 2020 survey**, which helped us better understand the social needs of our members and what we can do to provide social health support that improves members' total health. For the follow-up survey in 2022, we reached out to the more than 10,000 members who completed the 2020 survey and heard back from more than 6,300 of them — exceeding our target response rate of 50%.

As with the 2020 survey, we learned in 2022 that **most Kaiser Permanente members have at least one social need** — and that nearly 1 in 5 have three or more needs. Financial strain was by far the most common need reported in 2022. View this [2-slide summary](#) to see a preview of more high-level results from the 2022 survey, and stay tuned for SONNET's full report in our summer newsletter.

#### 2022 KP National SHS: Snapshot of results



[Click to view 2-slide summary](#)

### Featured publication

New SONNET paper uses data from KP's 2020 social health survey to examine the link between social needs and COVID-19

**How did the COVID-19 pandemic impact peoples' social needs in 2020?** A new paper led by SONNET partner Ammarah Mahmud found that people who knew individuals with COVID-19 reported more social needs compared to those who did not know anyone with COVID-19. [Published online](#) in April by *The Permanente Journal*, the paper leverages data from Kaiser Permanente's 2020 National Social Health Survey, which incorporated questions about COVID-19 shortly after the onset of the pandemic.

**Congratulations to Ammarah and her SONNET co-authors: Kara Cushing-Haugen, Rob Wellman, Meagan Brown, and Cara Lewis!** We are grateful to Ammarah for leading this work as a 4th year PhD candidate at the University of Washington. She is also collaborating with the Center for Accelerating Care Transformation (ACT Center) on Kaiser Permanente Washington's evaluation of a social health integration pilot program ([see article below](#)). Ammarah's interest in social health stems from both personal and professional experiences in identifying and understanding how health systems can address whole-person health through integration and innovative strategies.



Ammarah Mahmud

### Upcoming SONNET presentations

#### AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting (ARM), June 24 to 27

If you're planning to attend AcademyHealth ARM in Seattle later this month, be sure to check out these SONNET presentations:

- "Assessing Patients' Experiences and Preferences on Identified Social Needs and How to Receive Support from a Large, Integrated Healthcare Delivery System." [Presentation by Dea Papajorgji-Taylor, June 24 at 3:15 p.m.](#)
- "Examining the Association of Social Needs with Future Health Care Utilization in an Older Adult Population: Which Needs Are Most Important?" [Poster presentation by David Mosen, June 26 at 8:30 a.m.](#)

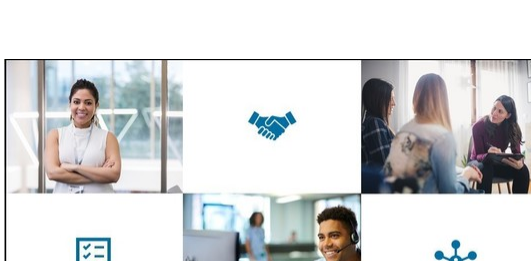
#### American Diabetes Association (ADA) 83rd Scientific Sessions, June 23 to 26

SONNET partner **Suma Vupputuri** will present "The Contribution of Social-Needs Factors to Racial Differences in Type 2 Diabetes" at the ADA's 2023 scientific sessions in San Diego on **June 23 at 2 p.m.** ([view program](#)). Featured in a session on inequities in diabetes outcomes, Suma's presentation will draw from [SONNET work](#) she led using data from Kaiser Permanente's 2020 Social Health Survey to examine how social risks affect racial differences in chronic disease outcomes.

### News from our partners

#### Integrating social health into primary care at KP Washington is successful on a small scale. So, what's next?

Using patient-centered approaches, the **Universal Social Health Screening Project at Kaiser Permanente Washington** aims to design and implement universal screening for social health. Learn more about how the project is benefiting members and what's next for social health integration at Kaiser Permanente Washington in this [recent blog from the organization's Center for Accelerating Care Transformation \(ACT Center\)](#).



#### Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in social care research: A long road to data equity

In May, the **Social Interventions Research and Evaluation Network (SIREN)** shared a [blog post](#) in honor of Asian American (AA), Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (NH/PI) heritage month. Despite AA and NH/PI communities being the fastest-growing racial or ethnic groups in the United States, they are often severely underrepresented in health research. The blog summarizes SIREN's recent conversation with the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations as they explored the gap between the needs AA and NH/PI communities face and their representation in social care research, and brainstormed ways for the social care research community to help close these gaps.

### Stay in touch

We'd love to hear what you're working on! Email our team: [sonnet@kp.org](mailto:sonnet@kp.org).

Did you miss the previous SONNET newsletter? [Read it here](#).

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*Our SONNET Coordinating Center would like to acknowledge that our Seattle offices are on the ancestral lands and traditional territories of the Puget Sound Coast Salish People.*

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Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute 1730 Minor Avenue Suite 1600  
Seattle, WA | 98101 United States

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