

Presenter Bios *CDFIs and Public Health*

Julia Koprak, The Food Trust: Julia Koprak is a Project Coordinator at The Food Trust, a nationally-recognized nonprofit organization based in Philadelphia whose mission is to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, nutritious food. She manages the New Orleans Fresh Food Retailer Initiative, a \$14 million public-private partnership that provides financing to grocers investing in low income, underserved communities. She also works on The Food Trust's supermarket advocacy campaigns in Texas and Mississippi. As a partner with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, she helped to organize a summit on in-store marketing, *Harnessing the Power of Supermarkets to Help Reverse Childhood Obesity*. Julia has expertise in project management, strategic communication, and marketing and outreach. She is a graduate of the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania.

Stephanie Weiss, The Food Trust: Stephanie Weiss is a Senior Associate for Research, Evaluation and Consulting at The Food Trust. In this role, she manages research projects that examine using in-store marketing strategies to promote consumer purchases of healthy food. She is also part of the consulting team that provides technical assistance to external groups on program development and research and evaluation projects related to healthy food retail. Prior to joining The Trust, she was a Research Associate at The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation where she worked with the Childhood Obesity and Public Health teams to develop, manage and evaluate grant programs that build the evidence base for childhood obesity prevention and tobacco control. She earned her Masters degree from Harvard School of Public Health.

Sonya Brister, Hope Enterprise Corporation: Sonya is the Program Officer for Community & Economic Development at Hope Enterprise Corporation (HOPE) based in New Orleans, LA. Sonya's responsibilities include marketing special programs with small businesses and other entities, partnering with designated community colleges in support of special programs, and assisting with the administration of programs. These special programs include the New Orleans Fresh Food Retailer Initiative (FFRI) Program and the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses (10KSB) Initiative. Sonya is also responsible for ongoing project tracking; management; and reporting of the Programs. Prior to joining HOPE, Sonya spent 7 years as a Senior Auditor. Sonya holds a B.S. Degree in Accounting from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA.