



Michelle Robinson, PhD, MS

Dr. Michelle Robinson is the inaugural Director of the new Office of Health Equity (OHE) at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. As Director, Dr. Robinson serves as the principal program and policy officer for equity and inclusion and workforce planning programs. OHE and its director are charged with establishing clear vision and focus, complementing, and amplifying the work of the related diversity, equity, inclusion, access and wellness, as well as health equity initiatives across all of DHS's internal and external operations. In her role, she reports to and serves as an advisor to the DHS Secretary, a member of the Office of the Secretary and the agency's executive management leadership teams.

Dr. Robinson served as the vice-chair of the Governor's Health Equity Council (GHEC) – a council charged with creating a comprehensive plan that will achieve long-lasting and equitable health outcomes for all Wisconsinites by addressing health disparities, and primary author of its

report *Building a Better Wisconsin: Investing in the Health and Well-being of Wisconsinites*. She previously served as the Director of the Office of the Inspector General and the Equity and Systems Change Research and Policy Officer (ESCRPO) at the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) where she was a member of the Secretary's cabinet and the agency's leadership team. As ESCRPO, Dr. Robinson provided strategic leadership and direction on internal and external equity and health equity initiatives.

Prior to joining DCF, Dr. Robinson was a member of the award-winning Race to Equity Project at Kids Forward. She contributed her expertise on disparities and racial equity research, policy, practice, and community engagement. She holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin- Madison. She has had the esteemed honor of being recognized for some of her contributions through receiving the 2018 Madison Community Leader Award by Church Women United, the 2018 Collaborator of the Year award by the Progress Center for Black Women, the 2017 Community Justice Award by the Urban League of Greater Madison and being named one of the University of Wisconsin's Outstanding Women of Color in Education in 2014. Dr. Robinson was the 2022 recipient of the Outstanding Leadership Award for the pioneering work she has done as the inaugural director of the OHE and the leadership she has provided to DHS in advancing its health equity and inclusion, diversity, equity and access goals.