



Eugene Giago Jr. | Community Engagement Manager

Eugene Giago is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. He joined CHAD in November 2021 as the community engagement manager, where he is responsible for developing and implementing a strategic vision for deepening community engagement activities. He guides health centers in successfully integrating community health workers into their primary care practice. In this role, Eugene enhances the capacity of health centers to respond to social determinants of health at both the patient and community levels, bringing an equity lens to best practice community engagement strategies.

Previously, Eugene served in many roles under the Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board (GPTLHB), including program coordinator under the Great Plains Good Health and Wellness program, patient navigator and program manager under the Great Plains Colorectal Cancer Screening Initiative, fatherhood coordinator under the Great Plains Healthy Start program, and as president of GPTLHB's Wellness Council. Through these experiences, Eugene has made lasting connections in the Great Plains region and serves as a bridge to close the gaps between communities and health centers.

In 2017, Eugene was awarded the Area/Regional Impact award under the National Indian Health Board. He has certifications as a health coach in nutrition under the Dr. Sears Wellness Institute, certified personal trainer and medical exercise under the Native American Wellness Council, and patient navigator under Harold P. Freeman, MD. He earned his bachelor's degree in business management at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas.

Eugene is a proud father, and in his personal time, he pursues his passion for Lakota traditions by mentoring Lakota youth and engaging in traditional Lakota ceremonies. He lives in Rapid City with his son, three cats, and a Bloodhound.