Dr. Chelsea Wesner (she/her) is an Assistant Research Professor within the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health (CAIANH) and Department of Community and Behavioral Health. She is honored to have partnered with Tribal communities for nearly 20 years through public health research and practice in her current role at CAIANH, and in past roles at the University of South Dakota, University of Oklahoma, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In her current role, Dr. Wesner leads research that applies Indigenous research methodologies to understand, measure, and promote early relational wellbeing and family economic wellbeing. She also co-leads research-practice partnerships that aim to build evidence and understanding about home visiting and wellbeing in Indigenous communities. This culturally grounded, intergenerational research holds great promise for informing future practice, research, and policy. Dr. Wesner is an Ascend Fellow at the Aspen Institute and serves as an advisor on multiple national early childhood, maternal and child health, and family economic wellbeing efforts. She lives in South Dakota. Her roots are in Oklahoma, and she's a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Areas of Expertise

- American Indian and Alaska Native Health
- Early Relational Wellbeing
- Family Economic Wellbeing
- Indigenous Methodologies
- Measurement

Education, Licensure & Certifications

- DrPH, Community and Behavioral Health, University of Colorado Anschutz, 2025
- Graduate Certificate in American Indian Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 2020
- MPH, Health Promotion Sciences, University of Oklahoma College of Public Health, 2010
- MSW, Administrative and Community Practice, School of Social Work, University of Oklahoma, 2010
- BA, Sociology and Minor in American Indian Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2006