

## Aimee Israel

Aimee Israel joined Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center's Office of Community Outreach, Engagement, and Equity (COEE) as Assistant Director in January 2020. Prior to her employment at UT Southwestern, Aimee had a twenty-year career as a clinical social worker engaging vulnerable families and communities. Her commitment to social justice began at Washington University in St. Louis, where she founded and directed the campus sexual assault hotline.

After receiving her master's degree, her experience at an adoption agency and as a school social worker outside Washington, D.C., gave her a broad understanding of the social determinants of health.

Her interactions with families from El Salvador receiving temporary protection after fleeing civil war led to a sabbatical in 2006, during which she provided pro bono consulting to increase educational access among indigenous children in Chiapas, Mexico.

Returning to her hometown of Dallas in 2012, Aimee began working at a federally qualified community health center to integrate behavioral health into primary care. She joined UT Southwestern in 2017 to manage clinical operations for VitalSign6, a quality improvement program for the identification and treatment of depression in primary care. Subsequently, she managed a team of patient navigators in a study focused on the early detection of mental health issues among Dallas County Community College students.

Aimee strongly believes that disease prevention and early detection are at the heart of COEE's mission to reduce health disparities. She is currently pursuing a certificate in public health at the University of Texas School of Public Health.