| **First Name:** |  **Last Name:** |  **Organization:** | **Biography:** |
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| Moya | Alfonso | Georgia Southern University | Moya L. Alfonso, PhD, MSPH is an Associate Professor of Community Health at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPH COPH) at Georgia Southern University. Her research interests include community-driven translational research, participatory research and evaluation, addiction and recovery, and program evaluation. Dr. Alfonso has an interdisciplinary background that bridges public health and educational research and measurement. Her combined skills in prevention research and program evaluation have led to her serving as Lead Evaluator for over 10 years for the School Board of Sarasota County’s prevention work. In this role, she is currently serving as Lead Evaluator on a multi-million dollar violence prevention grant. Prior to this, she served as lead evaluator on a million dollar SMART grant that focuses on reducing alcohol use among middle and high school youth in the county. In addition, she led the evaluation of a local implementation of a statewide SPF SIG grant targeted at reductions in alcohol harms such as DUI. Prior to arriving at JPH COPH, Dr. Alfonso served as Co-Lead of Methods and Evaluation for the Florida Prevention Research Center. In this role, she led the evaluations of the VERBTM Summer Scorecard physical activity campaign and the Believe in All of Your Possibilities substance use prevention campaign. She has published multiple evaluation articles describing this work in journals such as American Journal of Community Psychology, Journal of School Health, Preventing Chronic Disease, and Program Planning and Evaluation. In addition to her funded work, Dr. Alfonso provides evaluation support to the Statesboro Regional Sexual Assault Center (SRSAC), with the intent of strengthening local capacity to effectively address sexual abuse and assault. Finally, Dr. Alfonso serves as Research Chair for the Center for Addiction Recovery at Georgia Southern University, where she is investigating the intersection of alcohol addiction and overweight/obesity. |
| Jenny | Armbruster | National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse- St. Louis Area | Jenny Armbruster is the Director of Community Services for NCADA in St. Louis. NCADA’s Counseling Program provides substance abuse assessments, referrals and brief youth counseling. The Regional Support Center provides trainings and technical assistance to communities and coalitions. She is a Certified Reciprocal Prevention Specialist and Missouri Associate Alcohol and Drug Counselor II, has a Master’s Degree in Counseling Education and is a certified trainer of Youth Mental Health First Aid and the Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training. Ms. Armbruster also assists in implementing NCADA’s public awareness and education presentations regarding opioids in the Eastern Region of Missouri. |
| Lizbeth | Becerra | Children's Hospital Los Angeles | Lizbeth Becerra was born in Guadalajara, Mexico and grew up in Los Angeles where she graduated from California State University, Northridge (CSUN) in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health. During her time at CSUN she discovered her passion in serving the adolescent community as she volunteered and interned with Peer Health Exchange as a health educator. Lizbeth recognized the importance of prevention work among youth and enjoyed teaching high school students the skills needed to make informed choices about their mental, physical, emotional and sexual health. Upon graduating, Lizbeth worked as a behavior therapist for children with autism and other developmental disorders and then moved on to work with the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment program at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles where she currently works as a health educator in the community of North East Los Angeles. Lizbeth believes in the potential youth have and when they are provided with tools and opportunities that are tailored to their needs, they will be able to recognize that they can make a positive impact among their peers, therefore circulating healthy and informed risk-taking behaviors. |
| Phyllis | Bengtson | Minnesota Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division | Phyllis Bengtson has overseen the evaluation of all grant-funded programs by the MN Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division, since 1998. Five years ago she changed roles to oversee funding and program policy related to use of the primary prevention set-aside of Minnesota’s Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment block grant. Ms. Bengtson brings over 20 years of experience in program evaluation, prevention, education and public policy related to chemical dependency primary prevention. |
| Drew | Brooks | Faith Partners | Drew Brooks is the Faith Partners Executive Director providing leadership, administration, training, and consulting for congregational addiction team ministries. He has worked with Faith Partners since 1999 as the Project Manager, the Minnesota Area Coordinator (overseeing 35 congregational teams), as well as, team facilitator in two congregations. He has been active in the church all his life involved in music, youth, compassion, small group, and addiction ministries. The Faith Partners (FP) team approach is an evidence-based intervention with hundreds of trained congregations from 19 different faith traditions throughout 24 states. He has worked in prevention, treatment, and public health for over thirty-four years. He has worked at the Hazelden Foundation and Johnson Institute providing training and technical assistance with faith communities, schools, and community organizations across the country. He has also worked as a prevention specialist with key community groups focusing on community asset-building and environmental prevention strategies for underage drinking and marijuana use. He has co-authored four curricula on stress management strategies, raising resilient children, group facilitation skills, and congregational addiction team ministry. |
| Alex | Brown | Thrive Center Omaha | Alex holds degrees in both Political Science and Psychology from the University of Nebraska and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Nebraska College of Law. Alex began his prevention career while in college as a Peer Health Educator providing guidance and strategies to college students regarding underage and binge drinking. Now a practicing attorney licensed in the state of Nebraska he helps manage the Strategic Prevention Framework Partnership for Success II Grant for LiveWise Coalition and Thrive Center Omaha providing youth leadership and empowerment opportunities for youth ages 12-20 working to change their community environment with respect to community norms, outlet density, and public policy. |
| Tyese | Brown | Ridgewood Bushwick Youth Center (RBSCC, Inc.) | Tyese Brown, LMSW, MA, CPP has served as clinical director of the Ridgewood Bushwick Youth Center, a community based organization in Brooklyn, New York for the past 17 years. She supervises the PEAK (Prevention Education bringing Awareness and Knowledge) program, a team comprised of prevention educators, counselors, teaching artists, educational specialists and interns who provide evidence-based substance abuse prevention, mental health counseling, early intervention, leadership, service learning and after school programming for 2,500 youth annually. Ms. Brown is founding director of Sister S.A.G.E. (Strengthening Advocacy for Girls' Empowerment) a co-curricular program that provides girls of color with a safe space to experience intensive personal development through service, sisterhood, self-exploration and cultural empowerment. Since its’ inception in 2002 over 200 girls have participated in the program. Ms. Brown is a student in the social work doctoral program at the City University of New York, Graduate Center and Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. Ms. Brown’s research interests include Evidence Based Substance Abuse Prevention Practices, Gender Responsive Culturally Informed Prevention Interventions, Youth Racial and Gender Identity Development, Educational Policy, and Restorative and Transformative Justice Interventions. Tyese is a fellow in the Council of Social Work Education Mental Health & Substance Abuse Fellowship program (funded by the Center for Mental Health Services, the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, and the Substance Abuse Treatment in Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). The purpose of the program is to reduce health disparities and improve health care outcomes of racially and ethnically diverse populations by increasing the number of culturally competent behavioral health professionals with doctoral degrees available to underserved populations in the public and private nonprofit sectors. |
| Cathey | Brown |  | Cathey Brown, M.Ed. and former school teacher and counselor, is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Rainbow Days, Inc., established in 1982 in Dallas, Texas. Cathey is a tireless advocate and voice for prevention having dedicated the last 35 years to providing an expansive array of prevention services and to strengthening the prevention workforce. Cathey is the developer of the Curriculum-Based Support Group (CBSG®) Program, a support group intervention designed to increase resiliency and reduce risk factors among children and youth ages 4-17 who are identified as being at elevated risk for early substance use and future delinquency and violence. The CBSG® Program is included in SAMHSA’s National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP). Since its founding in 1982, Rainbow Days has served more than 200,000 children in the Dallas area and has trained more than 44,000 individuals. |
| David | Brown | Thrive Center Omaha | David Brown is a graduate of Grace University holding a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational leadership. For the past 10 years, David has been working with youth to empower them and teach them skills for success both in their lives and in the community. David began working with youth as a Program Director for the Hope Center, an organization that provides training and education services to help young people in underserved communities find success and achieve their higher education goals. In 2012 David became the co-founder of Thrive Center Omaha with the goal of helping young people, families, and communities not just survive, but to thrive in every aspect of their lives. As part of Thrive Center David also provides prevention and intervention services to young people who are involved with the Juvenile Probation system. David also sits on the advisory board for Operation Youth Success, a group that distributes grant funds from the Nebraska Crime Commission to help prevent recidivism among young people and limits their interactions with the Juvenile Justice System. |
| Catherine | Brunson | CADCA | Catherine Thatcher Brunson is a consultant who works primarily with non-profit organizations providing strategic planning, facilitation, fundraising and proposal writing. Formerly, the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Drug Commission in Knoxville, TN where her primary responsibilities included strategic planning and program implementation, government relations and media development. Ms. Brunson led the Metropolitan Drug Commission out of both a relationship and financial debt reducing operating expenses by 76% and took the organization from operating in the red to having a healthy net worth of over half a million dollars. Previously, as President of the City Ballet in Knoxville, Ms. Brunson planned and implemented a range of fundraising events and led a successful capital campaign for solicitations of corporate and private sponsorship. She facilitates opioid task forces in both urban and rural communities with a focus on engaging healthcare leadership. She has been a featured speaker at several professional organizations and national conferences: National Rx Drug Abuse &m Heroin Summit, National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators, and was recognized at ONDCP’s (Office of National Drug Control Policy) Drug Free Communities Support Grantees Conference for leadership and program excellence. She was selected as a Leader Mentor for the National Community Anti-Drug Coalition (CADCA) Institute & and trains for CADCA. Both Ms. Brunson’s organization’s programming and her advocacy efforts for the field have been highlighted in national publications. Ms. Brunson was the recipient of the FBI’s Community Director’s Leadership Award in 2002. She received a Presidential appointment in 2006 to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy’s Drug Free Communities Advisory Commission. She was selected for Leadership Knoxville’s 2007/2008 class and has a B.S. in business from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. |
| Jasmin | Bush | SAMHSA | Ms. Bush serves as a Public Health Advisor within SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. She works in the Division of State Programs on the Block Grant Team and partners with states and territories in order to alleviate substance abuse in America’s communities. |
| Terri Sue | Canale-Dalman | CDPH - Office of Problem Gambling | Terri Sue Canale-Dalman began her State service career with the California Department of Corrections, 25 years ago. In 1999, Ms. Canale-Dalman transferred to the Department of Justice, Division of Gambling Control, where she began working with the gambling industry. During her tenure with the Department of Justice, Ms. Canale-Dalman received the Attorney General’s Award for Excellence in 2000 and the Attorney General’s Award for Excellence in Supervision in 2007. In addition, she was a member of the North American Gaming Regulators Association from 2001-08 and served as the Western U.S. Regional Director from 2006-08. In November 2008, she was appointed to lead the California Office of Problem Gambling; focused on providing multi-cultural, multi-lingual problem gambling prevention and treatment services. Chief Canale-Dalman has been a member of the national Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators since 2009, serving as a member of the Board from 2011-16. |
| Jessica | Cance | Texas Health and Human Services Commission | Jessica Duncan Cance, MPH, PhD, joined the Substance Abuse Prevention team at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission in 2016, after working six years as an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin. She has over 15 years of experience working in adolescent and young adult health promotion, including epidemiological research, program implementation, coalition building, and national evaluation projects. Jessica earned a BS in Chemistry from Georgia Tech, her Master’s degree in Public Health from Emory University, and her PhD in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. |
| Richard | Cervantes | Behavioral Assessment, Inc. | Dr. Cervantes is Research Director of Behavioral Assessment, Inc. He served as Research Psychologist at the UCLA Spanish Speaking Mental Health Research Center , and held a full-time faculty appointment in the USC School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Cervantes was the Principal Investigator for the NIH funded study, “Development of the Hispanic Stress Inventory-2” and PI on the recently completed the study “Familia Adelante: A multi risk Prevention Program for Hispanic Youth”. |
| Lisa | Chaney | Southeast KS Education Service Center, Greenbush | Lisa Chaney currently serves as the Director of Research and Evaluation at the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center. She has worked in the field of prevention for eleven years. Her key duties include oversight of the Kansas Communities That Care Student Survey on behalf of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services and coordination of evaluation activities to support the collection and analysis of process and implementation outcome data, specifically in the areas of youth substance use and suicide prevention. Lisa leads the Kansas Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW), and coordinates the dissemination and analysis of the Kansas Behavioral Health Indicators Profile. |
| Chad | Childs | Community Engagement Institute | Chad Childs is the Prevention Systems Project Coordinator for Wichita State University’s Community Engagement Institute. Chad is a Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist with experience in mental health and leadership in the fields of higher education, child welfare and prevention. |
| M. Dolores | Cimini | University at Albany | Dr. Dolores Cimini serves as the Assistant Director for Prevention and Program Evaluation at University at Albany Counseling and Psychological Services. Dr. Cimini delivers administrative, clinical, and prevention services in the University at Albany Counseling Center and is an Adjunct Clinical Professor in the School of Education, overseeing eight courses in prevention, behavioral health promotion, and peer assistance and supervision. Dr. Cimini’s research-to-service work in Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) has helped to inform the President’s National Drug Control Strategy in 2008 and 2012 and is listed in SAMHSA’s National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP). |
| Mekela | Clarke | Ridgewood Bushwick Youth Center (RBSCC, Inc.) | Mekela Clarke was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts until she was 12 years old and moved to Brooklyn, New York. She was a Youth Center participant throughout her adolescence and joined the Ridgewood Bushwick program Sister S.A.G.E. (Strengthening Advocacy for Girls Empowerment) at the age of 14. She was promoted as a Peer Advisor to girls while she was in high school and later became Assistant Coordinator of Sister S.A.G.E. She served as a Group Teacher with the COMPASS after school program and summer camp. She now is a Prevention Educator and Coordinator of Sister S.A.G.E., an adolescent girls community service program. She is dedicated to giving back to her community in the same manner that she was mentored as a participant. For the past 14 years, Mekela has been committed to youth programming. As a Prevention Educator, she facilitates Evidence Based Program curricula and uses positive alternative activities with youth in order to prevent the development of maladaptive behaviors, reducing the risks and strengthening protective factors. She is currently attending LaGuardia Community College and pursing Bachelors degree in Psychology. She resides in Brooklyn, New York. |
| Eli | Cutler | IBM Watson Health | Eli Cutler received his B.A. in economics from the University of Connecticut and his Ph.D. in economics from Suffolk University. He joined Truven Health Analytics in 2014, which became part of IBM Watson Health in 2016, where he conducts health services research primarily for federal government studies. |
| John | Daviau | Prevention Training and Technical Assistance Center | A Community Psychologist and certified Dialogue Educator with almost 30 years of training, management and consulting experience in non-profit organizations and schools, John has focused his work on coalition and organizational development, substance abuse and violence prevention, and school safety initiatives. |
| Nichole | Dawsey | NCADA | Nichole Dawsey is the Director of Prevention Education for NCADA-St. Louis. In 2016, NCADA provided substance use prevention education to nearly 80,000 students, K-12, in over 280 schools. She is a Certified Reciprocal Prevention Specialist through the Missouri Credentialing Board and holds a Master of Public Health degree from St. Louis University. Nichole is a certified trainer of the Protecting You, Protecting Me curriculum. |
| Katie | Dively | Center for Health and Safety Culture at Montana State University | Katie Dively is a Research Scientist II and Senior Trainer for the Center for Health and Safety Culture at Montana State University. Katie received a Bachelor’s of Science Degree from the University of New Hampshire and Master’s Degree in Health Promotion from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. With a passion for studying health behavior, Katie has engaged in numerous research projects aimed at improving health and safety at the organizational, community and state level. With a goal of translating research into practice, Katie serves as the lead trainer and guide, assisting organizations and communities as they implement research findings at the local level. Katie has led prevention efforts in a variety of topic areas including cancer, cardiovascular disease, substance abuse, child maltreatment and traffic safety. Katie has provided resources, technical assistance and training relating to evidence-based prevention practices including program planning, capacity building, assessment, implementation and evaluation. |
| Lauren | Dustin | Office of Prevention and Outreach | Lauren Dustin is the Regional Opioid Abuse Prevention Coordinator for six communities in the Mystic Valley region of Massachusetts, just north of Boston. Prior to her work in the Mystic Valley, Lauren was Assistant Coordinator for the Melrose Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition for almost four years, managing the STOP Act and Drug Free Communities grants. Lauren has a Master’s degree in Public Health. |
| Eric | Evans | Geminus Corporation | Eric Evans is Director of Prevention at Geminus Corporation. Eric has provided trainings and conference presentations throughout the US to local school districts, community stakeholders, and behavioral health and social services workers on mental health promotion, suicide prevention, LGBT cultural competency, and substance abuse prevention. |
| Renee | Faber | DHHS Division of Behavioral Health | Renee Faber is the Behavioral Health Services Manager for the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health where she has served in various roles for 11 years. Ms. Faber oversees the implementation of prevention funding administered by the Division and has worked to integrate prevention systems and initiatives to ensure continued collaboration among prevention and promotion efforts statewide. Ms. Faber is the National Prevention Network (NPN) representative for the State of Nebraska and Vice President of Internal Affairs for the NPN. She also serves as Co-Chair to the NPN's Marijuana Prevention Committee and Nebraska's Statewide Epidemiology Outcomes Workgroup. Renee received a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska and served in the Army National Guard for 12 years which included an overseas deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. |
| Sarah | Fischer | Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services | Sarah is currently the Director for Prevention and Promotion Services at the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, Behavioral Health Commission. She is also the Project Director for the PFS 2015 grant. a Sarah has worked in the field of prevention for nearly 18 years and her passion is making the federal/state requirements and systems work within communities to achieve outcomes. |
| Robert | Flewelling | Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation | Dr. Robert Flewelling directed the evaluation of Vermont's Partnerships for Success (PFS) II grant and has led or otherwise participated in numerous other evaluations of community- and school-based prevention projects. He is a Senior Research Scientist with PIRE and currently serves as the Director of PIRE's Chapel Hill (NC) Center. |
| Raunda | Frank | Behavioral Health Services, Inc. | Raunda Frank is a Prevention Coordinator for Behavioral Health Services, Inc., an affiliate of NCADD (BHS/NCADD) where she oversees the alcohol and drug prevention programs for the Los Angeles County Beach Cities of Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach. |
| Raunda | Frank | Behavioral Health Services | Raunda Frank, Behavioral Health Services, Inc. Raunda Frank is a Prevention Coordinator for Behavioral Health Services, Inc., an affiliate of NCADD (BHS/NCADD) where she oversees the alcohol and drug prevention programs for the Los Angeles County Beach Cities of Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach. Her responsibilities include providing strategic direction and leadership to staff and local prevention community council members to implement prevention education programs and advance environmental policy objectives. Ms. Frank holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Juris Doctorate from Hastings College of the Law. She is a Certified Addictions Treatment Counselor V with the California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators. In addition, she has a Social Media Convergence Certificate from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Ms. Frank is also a Certified Prevention Specialist with the California Consortium of Addiction Program and Professionals. |
| Al | Fredrickson | MN Dept. of Human Services, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Division | Al is responsible for the management of grants to community non-profit organizations and local units of government for Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) prevention services from the MN Dept. of Human Services, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Division. As the former Director of Drug Policy for the state of MN he provided strategic direction related to MN ATOD policy. He brings over 40 years of experience in prevention, treatment, education and public policy related to chemical dependency treatment/prevention. Al is a Certified Prevention Professional Reciprocal (CPPR), Internationally Certified Prevention Specialist (ICPS) & Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (SAPST) mater trainer. |
| Penelope | Funaiole | City of Medford | Penny is a Certified Prevention Specialist. She has been in the prevention field since 2007, and is a facilitator, teacher, advocator, supporter, and initiator who is community focused. Working for the City of Medford off state funding from MDPH, BSAS since 2008 she led the Underage Drinking Prevention Grant Through 2013, transitioned to coordinate the Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative for the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition. And has recently taken a City designated position to managing all substance abuse prevention and outreach. Penelope has a Bachelor’s Degree in Community Health Education from the University of Massachusetts Lowell in 2008. Penelope received her Master’s Degree in Community Social Psychology from the University of Massachusetts Lowell in 2010. |
| Jenna | Gabrio | RTI International | Jenna Gabrio is a public health analyst in RTI International’s Biostatistics and Epidemiology Division who has been working with the DC Department of Behavioral Health Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup since 2012. She has experience working on multiple substance use prevention projects at both the state and national cross-site evaluation levels. Ms. Gabrio has expertise in applying quantitative data analysis methods and has been involved in the development of numerous technical epidemiological reports. She also has experience managing and cleaning complex datasets and databases. |
| Scott | Gagnon | AdCare Educational Institute of Maine, Inc. | Scott M. Gagnon, MPP, PS-C is the Director of Operations for AdCare Educational Institute of Maine, Inc., directing and managing all Maine programs and staff. Scott is a Certified Prevention Specialist with more than a decade of experience in the field. Since December 2015, Scott has been serving on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention National Advisory Council. He is also a member of the Maine Substance Abuse Services Commission, appointed by Governor Paul R. LePage in 2012. Scott volunteers as the Chair of the marijuana policy education and advocacy group, Smart Approaches to Marijuana, Maine. He is also the Board President of the Maine Council on Problem Gambling. Scott has received several awards recognizing his contributions and leadership in the substance use prevention field including the 2013 Maine Alliance to Prevent Substance Abuse Award, the 2015 Maine Public Health Association Ruth S. Shaper Award, and the 2015 Healthy Androscoggin Will Bartlett Award. He most recently received a 2017 Patrick J. Kennedy Outstanding Advocate Award from the national Smart Approaches to Marijuana organization. |
| Shadia | Garrison | Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration | Shadia Garrison is a public health analyst with SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. She works on social media campaigns to prevent underage drinking, tobacco use, and other substance use and misuse. Her areas of expertise include public health campaigns, school health, health reform, and the health workforce. |
| Dana | Goodrow | Goodrow Consulting | A former nonprofit director, Dana Goodrow has Masters degrees in social work and public health, as well as an undergraduate degree and eight years’ experience in journalism. She has served as a consultant to organizations around the state of California on projects ranging from strategic planning to evaluation, and all the steps in between. Dana has provided consulting on behalf of the Center for Applied Research Solutions’ Mentoring Technical Assistance Project, the Community Prevention Institute, Grant Writing Specialists, and CalPartners. She was also a trained consultant for the “It’s Up To Me” media campaign funded by the California Office of Family Planning. As the executive director of TeenNow California, Dana oversaw all operations of a statewide organization dedicated to increasing the capacity of organizations and professionals working with adolescents. She planned and implemented statewide conferences, regional workshops, and online webinars; conducted widespread advocacy efforts on issues surrounding adolescent health; disseminated information about related issues and innovative practices to the field; and participated in national and state groups designed to improve collaboration among youth-serving agencies. Prior to TeenNow California, Dana was the project director for the San Diego BRIGHT Families Project, a mentoring program for teenagers that provided support, guidance and education on issues related to preventing unintended pregnancy, STIs, and other risky behaviors. Her areas of expertise include organizational capacity building, board development, strategic planning, advocacy, evaluation, mentoring and adolescent health. She has served as chair of the Mentoring Coalition of San Diego County, and has served on the Boards of Directors of the California Alliance Concerned with School Age Parenting and Pregnancy Prevention and the national Healthy Teen Network; she was elected chair of both boards. |
| Erika | Green | Center for Applied Research Solutions | Ms. Erika Green, M.S. has 16 years of experience providing direct service, management, guidance, training, and field support at the local, statewide, and national level in youth substance use disorder prevention. She is dedicated to the provision of resources, opportunities, and programs to enhance positive youth development nationally. Ms. Green has participated in all levels of the SUD prevention field in local and statewide activities. She has provided direct SUD prevention services as a program coordinator and program director, has developed program strategies and evaluated outcomes, and has provided training and support to agency staff. At the state level, Ms. Green has managed training and technical assistance projects including the California Mentoring TTA Project and the Community Prevention Initiative (CPI). As a technical assistance Project Director she provides leadership and statewide support through the development of trainings, tools, and practical resources to enhance sustainability and capacity building for the SUD prevention workforce. Working with consultants, Ms. Green assists in the provision of technical assistance services, and in collaboration with State and Federal Departments, provides guidance to inform the field of best practices. Ms. Green is also responsible for providing vision and leadership on CPI, developing and managing project plans, supervising and managing program staff, and collaborating with consultants and experts to ensure successful delivery of services that align with Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) priorities. |
| Costella | Green | SAMHSA | Ms. Green serves as the Branch Chief for the Community Grants and System Improvement Branch, at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She provides leadership to the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program and Sober Truth on Prevention Underage Drinking (STOP Act) Grant Programs that build substance abuse prevention capacity throughout the country and internationally. Ms. Green is a longtime and nationally recognized prevention activist who has community organizing and training skills. She has developed pre-release curriculum and provided counseling and training for individuals re-entering the community. Further, she has advocated for individuals prior to adjudication before judicial officials. During her tenure as Senior Training Specialist for Prevention First (Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention with the State of Illinois) and the (Central CAPT) Center of Applied Prevention Technology, she trained all prevention community based providers and coalitions throughout the Midwest. Specifically, she developed, implemented and disseminated prevention knowledge to engage preventionists and community organizers accordingly. Ms. Green holds a B.A. in History and Political Science from North Central College and a M.H.S. in Addiction Studies from Governor’s State University. Ms. Green has over twenty-four years of increasing responsibility at the local, state, national, and federal levels developing, managing, and planning public health programs. She has collaborated with law enforcement on programs directed toward preventing underage drinking as well as having subject area expertise in: substance abuse prevention, HIV/AIDS, mental health promotion, prison substance abuse, juvenile and criminal justice, community mobilization, and addictions studies and counseling. |
| Carlton | Hall |  | Carlton Hall is responsible for the day to day operational oversight, design, and implementation of the National Coalition Institute. Carlton supports CADCA’s International Programs in partnership with the US State Department’s International Narcotics Law Enforcement division (INL), managing training programs in Kenya, South Africa, and Ghana. Prior to CADCA, Carlton was the president and CEO of Carlton Hall Consulting LLC, a multi-faceted, full-service consulting organization designed to provide customized solutions and enable measurable change for communities, organizations, families and individuals. He regularly partnered with the CADCA Institute to provide training and technical assistance support to CADCA’s National Coalition Academy. The Academy, is designed to increase the effectiveness of communities in drug demand reduction at population level outcomes. With more than 20 years' experience in fields of government, social services and prevention science, Carlton first gained national prominence as a Communities That Care® Project Manager, for the Channing Bete Company. He was a Communities That Care® trainer/senior consultant with Channing Bete Company for four years. He received his Master's in Human Services from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He was appointed as the Project Director for the Communities That Care® process in Philadelphia as well as the Crime and Public Safety manager for the Philadelphia Empowerment Zone, a division of the Mayor’s Office of Community Services. During that time he managed a small planning grant to over three million dollars for science-based prevention programming in the neighborhoods of Philadelphia. Carlton also was responsible for the design and implementation of the award-winning "Operation Makeover", an effective communitywide intervention addressing blatant open-air drug trafficking and increasing levels of juvenile violence and substance abuse offences. Operation Makeover was recognized by Vice-President Al Gore and featured in "Programs That Work" a publication by the Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). |
| Stephanie | Hawkins | RTI International | Stephanie Hawkins is a senior research clinical psychologist at RTI International and the Evaluation Project Director for the District of Columbia’s Partnership for Success Grant. She has more than 20 years of research experience working in the areas of violence prevention, the healthy development of youth living in risky environments, gender based research, adolescent substance use and juvenile delinquency Her clinical work has focused on youth and families of color with a variety of mental health challenges residing in resource-poor urban communities. Currently, Dr. Hawkins directs a gender based national evaluation project focused on male survivors of violence, a school safety evaluation study, and a state level evaluation of youth substance use prevention; She is also a research board member for the OJJDP funded National Mentoring Resource Center. |
| Betsy | Houde | New Hamshire Juvenile Court Diversion Network | Betsy Houde coordinates the NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network, and has been The Youth Council’s Executive Director since 1996. Named as a 3-year Robert Wood Johnson Foundation fellowship awardee in 2002 to help reduce substance use among youth, Betsy served as a 12-year member of the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery. She currently consults with two Drug Free Communities grantees and is also an active member and past president of Nashua West Rotary Club. A New London, Connecticut native, Betsy received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Connecticut College and Master of Arts in Counseling from Rivier University. |
| Alejandra | Huerta | CHLA | Alejandra Huerta received her B.S. in Biology at University of California, San Diego and minored in Visual Arts with an emphasize in Studio/Performing Arts. After graduating from UCSD, she reconnected with her community and volunteered over 250 hours with the Los Angeles Public Library as an adult literacy instructor and at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles as a Childlife Specialist assistant which opened her curiosity to Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine in 2015. Her work in prevention with the Mayor’s Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Program led to her recognition for her service to the people of the city of Los Angeles in 2015. Today, she continues to pursue her passion for biology, teaching, and youth advocacy as a health educator in the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles where she collaborates with school staff, mental health professionals, and SUD counselors/therapists to broaden her capacity to serve at-risk youth in Northeast Los Angeles. In her spare time, she enjoys camping and hiking with members of the LA Trail Hikers and loves to dance and perform to Mexican Folklorico to bring her closer to her roots. |
| Erin | James | KING COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY DIVISION | Erin James started working in substance abuse prevention at the community level in Quincy, Washington, as a coalition director. She managed a Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant for the local prevention coalition and developed both adult and youth prevention leaders. While in Quincy, Erin wrote the second (years 6-10) DFC grant and was successful in securing $625,000 of DFC funding, as well as Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) grant funding for the high-need community. Erin has graduated from the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Coalition Academy and has continued furthering her knowledge and experience in the substance abuse prevention field. Before leaving Quincy, to work for Washington State Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR), Erin developed relationships that made way for local policy change, including the City’s permanent adoption of an on-going medicine take-back program that would be managed and maintained by the police department. At DBHR, Erin managed 11 Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI) communities, 7 Native American Tribes implementing prevention plans, planned state and national prevention conferences for youth and adults (Spring Youth Forum, Prevention Summit, and 2015 National Prevention Network Youth Track), implemented state-wide opioid prevention efforts, and helped communities and tribes develop marijuana prevention plans using I-502 Dedicated Marijuana Account funding. Erin has her Certified Prevention Professional certification (CPP) and has been focusing her efforts on opioid and youth marijuana prevention as part of the prevention team at King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division since April 2016. In her work with the County, Erin implements opioid prevention strategies developed by the Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force; provides expanded access to Naloxone for users, housing providers, and first responders; coordinates community prevention education and trainings; and works with youth to develop and implement underage marijuana prevention strategies across King County. |
| Jeffrey | Jenson | University of Denver | Dr. Jeffrey M. Jenson is the Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Endowed Professor for Children and Youth in the Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver. His research focuses on the application of a public health approach to preventing child and adolescent health and behavior problems and on the evaluation of preventive interventions aimed at promoting healthy youth development. Dr. Jenson has published seven books and more than 100 articles and chapters on topics of child and adolescent development and prevention science. His book (with K. Bender), Preventing child and adolescent problem behavior: Evidence-based strategies in schools, families, and communities (Oxford University Press) is a comprehensive review of empirical evidence pertaining to the efficacy of preventive interventions for children and youth. Dr. Jenson is Chair of the Coalition for the Promotion of Behavioral Health and Co-Lead of Unleashing the Power of Prevention, an initiative of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare’s Grand Challenge: Ensure Healthy Development for all Youth. He is the current editor-in-chief of the Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research, a fellow of the Society for Social Work and Research, former treasurer of the Society for Prevention Research, and a fellow and board member of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. |
| Kiku | Johnson | One Circle Foundation | Kiku has been committed to youth work since 1989 ranging from residential, treatment, prevention, out of school time, community-based, and youth development including educational non-profit organizations in California, Maine, Michigan, Massachusetts, and West Virginia. Nearly 20 of those years have been focused work with girls and gendered specific programing including outdoor and adventure-based education, science-technology-engineering-math (STEM), college and career preparation and internship placement, rites of passage, and social emotional learning (SEL). Kiku served previously as the Girls Leadership National Program Director centering on SEL and educational theater curriculum and educator training. Kiku has also been a residential counselor with pregnant and parenting teen girls and worked with organizations including 4-H and Girls Incorporated. Kiku’s approach to working with youth and all individuals is culturally informed and responsive and human centered. Kiku hails from a visual arts background engaging art mediums including photography, drawing, stained glass and mosaics with youth. Kiku resides in east Oakland, California since 2004 with an equally rock star partner who also works with middle and high school age girls and youth! |
| Sandeep | Kasat | Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) | As associate director of epidemiology for the CAPT, Sandeep oversees all analytical aspects of the Substance Abuse Prevention Planning and Epidemiology Tool (SAPPET). He also works to conceptualize and develop epidemiology-related products and to review and develop T/TA materials, particularly related to behavioral health indicators. Before joining the CAPT, Sandeep was a principal investigator for the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) support contract at PIRE’s Calverton Center. He has been involved in delivering T/TA to SAMHSA-funded epidemiological workgroups in all states, jurisdictions and several tribes, providing epidemiological, analytical and research support designed to help them use data to create informative products and build data monitoring systems. Sandeep has more than 10 years of experience working in the field of substance abuse, especially in bringing research and epidemiological data to prevention of substance abuse and associated behavioral/mental disorders. Sandeep received an MPH with concentration in biostatistics from department of epidemiology and biostatistics, University of South Florida (USF) at Tampa. Sandeep has also completed his bachelor’s in surgery and medicine (MBBS), from government medical college (GMC), Nagpur, India and was a practicing physician doing residency before moving to United States. |
| Charles | Kaup | LiveWise Coalition | Charles Kaup is the Prevention Coordinator for the LiveWise Coalition in Omaha, Nebraska. Charles completed his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. He then went on to receive a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he focused his studies on macro-level social work to impact larger systems. Prior to working with LiveWise, Charles supervised a Treatment Group Home at Cooper Village/Uta Halee that focused on serving teenage boys who struggled with both mental health and substance abuse problems. Charles also spent 7 years working within the child welfare system with both Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare and Nebraska Families Collaborative where he supervised a team of case managers that were responsible for overseeing families involved with the Juvenile Court System and Child Protective Services. In each of these roles, Charles was able to successfully engage clients of all ages to ensure successful outcomes. Charles also serves on the Board of Directors and is the Policy Coordinator for GLSEN Omaha. Through this role, Charles works with local schools to ensure that they are developing policies that are inclusive and welcoming for all students. Charles is also a trained facilitator for GLSEN's national program called GoEd. |
| Jason | Kilmer | University of Washington | Dr. Jason Kilmer received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Washington in 1997, and currently works at the University of Washington in both a student affairs and a research capacity. Jason is an Associate Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and serves as an investigator on several studies evaluating prevention and intervention efforts for alcohol, marijuana, and other drug use by college students. He is also the Assistant Director of Health and Wellness for Alcohol and Other Drug Education in the Division of Student Life, working with different areas across campus (including health, counseling, Greek life, residence life, and intercollegiate athletics) to increase student access to evidence-based approaches. Jason also serves as the chairperson of Washington's College Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention. Jason was the 2014 recipient of the National Prevention Network’s Award of Excellence for outstanding contributions to the field of prevention. For over a decade, Jason has been a co-investigator on studies involving norm perception, perceived risk, and brief interventions related to marijuana use by college students and young adults. This work has also included efforts to identify the most salient and relevant unwanted effects of marijuana use among young adults with implications for prevention messaging and interventions. Collectively, this experience has laid the foundation for his role as the principal investigator of Washington’s Young Adult Health Survey, a cross-sectional and longitudinal survey of 18-25 year olds in Washington to assess substance use and emerging prevention and intervention needs following marijuana legalization. |
| Rachel | Kohn | JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. | Rachel Kohn, MSW, MPH, has worked in public health for over 18 years and has extensive experience with federal, state and local agencies providing a full array of technical assistance and evaluation services for programs targeting prevention of substance use among youth, smoking cessation, prisoner reentry programs, juvenile court diversion, adult and juvenile treatment drug court programs. Ms. Kohn’s areas of technical expertise include: program evaluation; needs assessment; survey research design; qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods data collection protocols and management; utilization-focused evaluation design; and report writing and dissemination. These technical skills are complimented by over six years of graphic design experience which is applied toward the visual presentation of data, materials and health communication strategies. Ms. Kohn is currently the leader of the data and evaluation team for the New Hampshire Center for Excellence in Substance Misuse Prevention and Treatment addressing alcohol and drug misuse in New Hampshire. The Center provides technical assistance and data analysis for state-funded local and regional prevention and treatment organizations. In addition, Ms. Kohn oversees the data and evaluation needs of the New Hampshire Juvenile Court Diversion Network in their capacity to provide evidence-based court diversion programs to first time offenders, expand the reach of diversion services into underserved areas of the state and development of a long-term sustainability plan. She has worked extensively with federally-funded reentry programs and adult treatment courts in several New Hampshire counties to research and establish standards and best practices, and to support the implementation of evidence-based drug courts as defined by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. |
| Rachel | Kohn | JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. | Rachel Kohn, MSW, MPH, has worked in public health for over 18 years and has extensive experience with federal, state and local agencies providing a full array of technical assistance and evaluation services for programs targeting prevention of substance misuse among youth, juvenile court diversion, adult and juvenile treatment drug court programs. |
| Jim | Kooler | California Center For Youth Development and Health Promotion | As the Administrator for the CA Friday Night Live Partnership and the CA Center for Youth Development and Health Promotion, Dr. Kooler provides leadership and support to local Friday Night Live programs. From his office at the Tulare County Office of Education, with support from the CA Dept. of Health Care Services, Office of Problem Gambling, the Office of Traffic Safety, and the Allstate Foundation, he leads the implementation of Friday Night Live, Club Live, Friday Night Live Kids, Friday Night Live Mentoring, the California Youth Council, Life Plan, and Betting On Our Future. He is a strong ally to young people and has worked in the prevention field for more than 32 years. He previously was the Director of the Governor’s Mentoring Partnership, leading the California Mentoring movement and a mentor himself. He is a member of the CA Mentoring Partnership Leadership Team, and chairs the Business Outreach committee. He serves on the Global Leadership Team for Challenge Day, Board Member of the National Endowment for Financial Education and the United States Anti-Doping Agency. He also served as Deputy Director for the Prevention Services Division at the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs. |
| Andrea | LaFazia-Geraghty | King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division | Andrea N. LaFazia-Geraghty, M.S.W., M.P.H., Prevention Services Manager, King County, Department of Community and Human Services, Behavioral Health & Recovery Division, Seattle, Washington. Andrea has a Master’s degree in Social Work and in Public Health; she has worked in the behavioral health and prevention field for the past 15 years and has a solid understanding of the cultural context of substance abuse in diverse populations. She manages substance use prevention and mental health promotion services for King County Behavioral Health & Recovery Division and has served as the project director of multiple SAMHSA discretionary grants. Andrea was previously the director of prevention in the State of Oklahoma and has experience managing the CSAP block grant, and various other discretionary funds and grants. Andrea served as the Oklahoma Liaison for the University of Oklahoma’s Southwest Prevention Center and Center for Substance Abuse Prevention’s Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies, providing technical assistance and training services in prevention to the region. After her husband was injured while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Andrea became an advocate for veterans and spouses, serving as the President of local veteran service organization and leading a county-wide Regional Veteran Initiative, all while being his caregiver. Other experience includes social work, supervision of social workers, juvenile justice/criminal justice system, program evaluation, and research assistant. |
| Emily | Larkin | The Community Fund of Darien | Emily Larkin holds a B.S. in Counseling and Human Services and B.A. in Theology from the University of Scranton. Prior to her role at The Community Fund of Darien, she worked for five years for a nonprofit organization providing care for teens struggling with substance abuse and mental health disorders. In her role as Thriving Youth Program Director, Emily co-chairs Darien's Local Prevention Council and is currently implementing a five-year strategic plan aimed at reducing underage drinking and improving mental health for Darien's 12-17 year olds and their parents. |
| Irene | Lim | Children's Hospital Los Angeles | Irene M. Lim, LCSW has expertise in addressing the needs of the youth and young adults. She is the Program Manager for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program at CHLA an outpatient treatment program for youth 12-25 years old. She is a Los Angeles native of Mexican and Korean decent and speaks Spanish. She received her B.A. in Sociology at UCLA and M.S.W. at USC. |
| Amy | Livingston | Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) | Amy Livingston is an evaluator with PIRE working on Vermont's PFS 2015 and School-based Substance Abuse Prevention Services projects. In her role, she coordinates statewide data collection, performance measure development and tracking, and provides technical assistance to community organizations on process and outcome data collection and implementation fidelity. |
| Daisy | Lopez | California Health Collaborative | Daisy Lopez, M.A. has ten years of experience working with grant funded youth development projects, with six years dedicated to working with substance abuse prevention programs. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Restorative Justice and a Master of Arts in Leadership Studies from Fresno Pacific University. Since 2006, Ms. Lopez has been coordinating and leading various federal, state and county funded projects aimed at creating policy, system or environmental changes in communities throughout California’s Central San Joaquin Valley. As a professional, Ms. Lopez has demonstrated expertise in: 1) reaching and serving low socioeconomic status, Hispanic/Latino, and rural community populations; 2) establishing networks and creating successful partnerships among traditional and non-traditional stakeholders; 3) creating and maintaining professional, community and youth coalitions at the local and regional level; 4) developing advocacy initiatives with a youth focus; 5) developing and executing campaigns and initiatives designed to create policy, system, and environmental changes; and 6) developing and executing media campaigns. Ms. Lopez currently serves as Project Director for the California Health Collaborative’s Performing Above the High Project and Regional Advocates Countering Tobacco Program. Both programs are designed to shift community norms and provide research based education which decrease marijuana and tobacco use by making marijuana and tobacco less accessible, less acceptable and less desirable. |
| Azahar | Lopez | Orange County Health Care Agency | Azahar Lopez, PsyD is a licensed clinical psychologist and program manager with Orange County, Behavioral Health Services. Dr. Lopez currently manages the County’s DUI programs, other court programs and the SUD Support team in Authority and Quality Improvement Services. Previously, Dr. Lopez has worked in the County’s prevention and early intervention and children’s services divisions. Additionally, she has worked with a variety of populations though independent practice, including military veterans, older adults, victims of crime, medical patients and court involved families. Her interests include continuous process improvements, organizational development, workforce development and leveraging partnerships to maximize quality and service. She is also an adjunct professor at Webster University and facilitator with Cal State Fullerton extended education. |
| Sarah | Mariani | Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery - Washington State Department of Social and Health Services | Sarah Mariani currently is the Behavioral Health Administrator overseeing substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion services for the Washington State Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. In this role she serves as the National Prevention Network representative for Washington State. Before joining state government, she was the Executive Director for a program to prevent youth violence and substance abuse. Sarah worked in prevention for over eighteen years including coalition-building, strategic planning, and training. Sarah began working for the state of Washington in 2006 and has contributed to the development of multiple substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion initiatives for the state. Including as part of her work to support workforce development, Sarah created the first of its kind, Washington State online professional development platform which includes interactive content as well as online courses for the prevention professionals in the state. Currently, she focuses on strategic planning, data and program evaluation, and policy development. Sarah is the co-chair for the State Prevention Enhancement Policy Consortium that oversees the five-year strategic plan for substance use disorders prevention and mental health promotion. For the last four years, Sarah has been one of the leaders in the state of Washington focused on prevention of marijuana misuse and abuse. |
| Claudia | Marieb | Vermont Department of Health | Claudia Marieb is a Substance Abuse Prevention Consultant with The Vermont Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, in the White River Junction Health District. As a Prevention Consultant, Claudia provides support and technical assistance to community-based organizations working on substance abuse prevention in her region. |
| Saabi | Markar | Center for Social Innovation | Saabira Markar is pursuing a BS in Applied Mathematics with a Minor in Fine Art from Temple University. She hopes to graduate this December. A key factor in her personal long-term recovery is the ability to be a college student again. In gratitude to those who helped her, she tries to help others find purpose and joy in recovery by being a mentor for Project Amp, helping develop a Collegiate Recovery Program at Temple, and being involved in the Young People in Recovery Philly Chapter as the head of art and graphics. |
| Lisa | Mason | Cross Sector Consulting, LLP | Lisa Mason, MA, CPS has provided training and technical assistance to substance abuse and suicide prevention and youth development programs at the local, regional and state level for 20 years. As project manager of the Prevention Training and Technical Assistance Service Center in Connecticut, she organizes and conducts prevention workforce development training and provides support to community coalitions utilizing the Strategic Prevention Framework. In addition, Lisa chairs the Middlesex United Way’s Positive Youth Development Team and is active in the CT Association of Prevention Professionals. She is also a certified Dialogue Educator and SOS Signs of Suicide and QPR, Question, Persuade, Refer suicide prevention instructor. |
| Mary Jo | Mather | IC&RC | Executive Director of the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium, Inc. (IC&RC), which is the international association of addiction certification and licensing boards. IC&RC sets standards for addiction-related credentials and develops examinations for 77 credentialing and licensing boards worldwide. |
| Brad | McLeish | Praxis Strategies and Solutions | Brad McLeish is the president of Praxis Strategies & Solutions. Brad has conducted research and program evaluations throughout Indiana in mental health, substance abuse prevention, and education. He brings a multidisciplinary approach to research centered on the application of complex adaptive systems to public administration. |
| Leah | Meza | University of Southern California, Project Towards No Drug Abuse | Leah Meza, Program Manager at the University of Southern California, has over 12 years of experience in prevention research. She manages the Project Towards No Drug Abuse program, in addition to other research projects. She has worked across the nation, with schools to implement prevention programs and collect research data. |
| Kendric | Neely | Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration | Mr. Neely serves as a Public Health Advisor at SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. He works primarily with the Drug-Free Communities Grant Program and the Sober Truth of Preventing Underage Drinking Grant as a Project Officer monitoring grants aimed to enhance substance use and misuse prevention activities for the states of Connecticut, Delaware, and Mississippi. In this capacity, he coordinates and facilitates technical assistance to DFC grant recipients to prevent and reduce the occurrence of substance abuse among youth. |
| Chrislyn | Nefas | Orange County Health Care Agency | Chrislyn Nefas, MA is a trained quantitative health psychologist from the University of Rhode Island where she studied with the developers of the Transtheoretical Model of Behavior Change, Dr. Prochaska and his team. Chrislyn has led projects pertaining to multiple health behaviors, quality improvement, and program evaluation. Currently, Chrislyn Nefas is a Research Analyst IV for the Orange County Health Care Agency’s Public Health Division’s Alcohol Drug Education and Prevention Team (ADEPT) where she is the lead for the team’s evaluation efforts. Chrislyn is the principle investigator of a surveillance data collection project, measuring the circumstances of last drink of all DUI offenders convicted in Orange County. This survey is administered at all four superior courts within the county and informs prevention and behavioral health services. |
| Sarah | Newton-Scott | Center for Collaborative Planning, Public Health Institute | Sarah Newton-Scott has been with the Center for Collaborative Planning (CCP), a center of Public Health Institute, since 1999. As Project Manager, she has been coordinating leadership development programs for women and girls for more than a decade. She also develops and implements trainings and conferences for grassroots communities, non-profits and institutions. Her work is focused on building capacity, community and leadership in order to improve health and promote social justice. As part of this work, she has staffed several community coalitions, including the My Future Initiative (MyFI) coalition of teen girls and adult allies who developed a community grant program to prevent alcohol abuse among girls in Sacramento County. This program provided leadership development opportunities for the youth involved in the coalition, as well as education, peer support, and safe, fun activities to over 1000 additional youth through the funded grants. She has also staffed CCP’s Women’s Health Leadership program, which provides leadership development opportunities for grassroots women leaders throughout California. Since 1995, over 400 women have graduated from the program and have become successful health advocates and policymakers. Sarah graduated in 1998 with highest honors from the University of California, Davis with a B.A. in Anthropology and minors in Women’s Studies and Psychology. |
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| Alyssa | O'Hair | Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) | Alyssa serves as the coordinator for CSAP’s CAPT West Resource Team (West RT). The West RT is housed at the Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). In her role as coordinator, she supervises and provides training and technical assistance service delivery to 11 states, seven tribes, and six Pacific jurisdictions on SAMHSA’s Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) and prevention workforce development. Alyssa has extensive subject matter knowledge in training design and facilitation, the SPF, public health approach to prevention, data-driven decision-making, risk and protective factors, evidence-based interventions, and evaluation design and methodology. Prior to joining the CAPT system, she worked at UNR’s Center for Program Evaluation as an evaluation manager, conducting evaluations for school districts, non-profit organizations, community coalitions, and regional health education initiatives. Alyssa has evaluated a variety of substance abuse prevention, youth development, education, and health education initiatives across the western region. She is experienced in evaluation tool development, quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis, meeting facilitation, and community-based participatory research. Alyssa completed a Master of Arts degree in social psychology from UNR and is a certified prevention specialist. She received her B.A. in psychology from Nebraska Wesleyan University. She is currently working on a Master of Public Health degree in epidemiology. |
| Erica | Pachmann | Center for Community Research (CCR) | Erica Pachmann, M.A., Ms. Pachmann is an organizational behavior psychologist with nearly 10 years of applied research and evaluation experience working with public, non-profit, and private agencies in the fields of prevention, performance management, organizational development, criminal justice, and health. Erica designs and implements large-scale countywide evaluations and needs assessments across a variety of sector and provides data that is actionable and relevant for decision-making across stakeholders. Erica is a member of the American Evaluation Association and holds an M.A. degree in Psychology in the field of Organizational Behavior and Evaluation from Claremont Graduate University. |
| David | Paddison | Community Service Programs | David Paddison is a health educator for Community Service Programs' Project Faith in Youth and Garden Grove Drug-Free Communities Support Program. He has worked with youth in a variety of contexts for several years, particularly in faith communities. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Colorado Christian University in 2015. David Paddison is a Southern California native. |
| Laura | Pannella Winn | Center for Social Innovation | Laura Pannella Winn, MA, Associate at the Center for Social innovation, is an applied social scientist with interest in substance use treatment, prevention, and recovery and it’s intersection with housing and health care. She currently serves as the Deputy Project Director for a three-year project to develop and evaluate peer-based substance use prevention interventions for youth. In this role she leads project efforts to develop prevention approaches, design the research protocol, facilitate community coalition building activities, and disseminate the model to a growing integrated health care field. Ms. Winn is also the Project Director for an initiative to identify and develop youth engagement strategies to support youth-serving health and substance use services organizations. Ms. Winn has worked across C4 to develop and implement strategies to promote recovery supports under SAMHSA’s Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS). Prior to this work, Ms. Winn served as the Research Manager for a heath services research group at the Harvard School of Public Health, streamlining data collection processes and leading a qualitative research team to identify barriers to improving readmission rates at hospitals serving low income and minority patients. Ms. Winn received her masters in social sciences at the University of Chicago. Her work is informed by a family history of substance use issues. |
| William | Perno | Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) San Diego | William Perno is an experienced alcohol and other drug prevention specialist and community organizer. He lives in San Diego and works for “Social Advocates for Youth” (SAY) San Diego. He is very active in three community coalitions; the Cinco de Mayo con Orgullo Coalition, the San Diego Military Family Collaborative and the Central Region Prevention Coalition. William is a retired San Diego County Deputy Sheriff. During his tenure as a deputy, he spent several years working in the Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) program. In 2011, William co-founded a grass roots community group dedicated to protecting communities from synthetic drugs such as "Spice" and "Bath Salts". He is considered a subject matter expert and has given more than 250 presentations on the dangers of synthetic drugs. The efforts of this Community Group were instrumental in the passage of a California State law banning sales of Bath Salts. William has testified as an individual, in state committees in support of legislation to ban synthetic drugs within California. He has also worked with local governments to help create city and county ordinances banning synthetic drugs. William has given numerous presentations to community groups, school districts, students, teachers, parents, health care providers (psychologists, psychiatrists, security staff and emergency room doctors), epidemiologists, prevention providers, drug-free community coalitions, members of the military and policy makers. He has given synthetic drug training to law enforcement agencies and organizations throughout California and in other states. |
| Alexander | Rabre | RTI International | Alexander Rabre, MPH, MS, is a public health analyst in RTI’s Child and Adolescent Research and Evaluation program, skilled in survey and assessment tool development, focus group moderating, in-person interviewing, and innovative dissemination. He has over two years of experience working on a wide range of public health topics including, tobacco use prevention, Zika virus, survivors of male victimization, childhood hunger, and adolescent pregnancy prevention, for clients including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Office of Justice Programs-Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OVC-OJJDP), the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB). He has considerable experience in formative research, mainly serving as a focus group moderator and interviewer for a number of projects, such as conducting: focus groups with high-school aged adolescents, young adults, and adults on their knowledge and use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes; focus groups with middle-school aged youth on their perceptions to vape-product prevention messages; Spanish in-person interviews and focus groups with pregnant women, their partners, and community members in Puerto Rico on their knowledge about Zika virus, reactions, and perceptions to Zika prevention messages; and Spanish in-person food recalls with elementary-aged students and their parents. He has assisted in message development and testing, formative research, and content creation for a range of audiences and communication channels, such as social media. For instance, he helped create a Spanish educational campaign on Zika for the population of Puerto Rico, and assists in the evaluation of environmental strategies to address underage drinking and marijuana use in Washington, D.C. by providing TA to PFS Coordinators on the use of Crimson Hexagon. Prior to working at RTI, he worked as the assistant Synar coordinator at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). |
| Charles | Reynolds | SAMHSA | Mr. Charles Reynolds is the Director for the Division of Community Programs, for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. He is responsible for providing oversight on all activities associated with developing and implementing comprehensive community-based, HIV, drug and alcohol misuse prevention and early intervention strategies, programs and service support nationally. He supports the promotion of positive mental health and the prevention of substance misuse and mental illness which are key parts of SAMHSA’s mission to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America’s communities. Prior to his career at SAMHSA, he spent more than 20 years as a national expert in using Geographic Information Software (GIS) to answer complex questions relating to the delivery of health related services for both the private sector and federal government to help design and develop analytical systems that measure the effectiveness of programs and the deployment of critical resources. |
| Connie | Robison | Center for Collaborative Planning, Public Health Institute | Connie Chan Robison, Executive Director of the Center for Collaborative Planning, Public Health Institute guides the Center’s organizational and programmatic priorities including its training and technical assistance programs, leadership development initiatives, and community building efforts. Examples of CCP’s current work include the Center’s partnership with the Network for a Healthy California to implement the statewide Network Leaders on the Move program to build leadership capacity and community engagement in obesity prevention efforts. This body of work draws from almost 20 years of experience supporting women’s leadership development within the rubric of social determinants of health. In addition, Connie and her team manages several alcohol and substance abuse prevention projects including Families and Communities Together (Families ACT) and Youth Engaged in Action (YEA) which provide prevention education and youth and parent leadership development to address this growing problem in Sacramento County. Under Connie’s leadership, the Center has also served as an intermediary organization on several population health and community change initiatives to provide capacity building, convening, and peer learning to initiative stakeholders including The California Endowment’s Building Healthy Communities and Agricultural Worker Health Initiatives and the Sierra Health Foundation’s REACH Youth Development Initiative. In addition, CCP is often called upon to provide full service conference and meeting management support for local and statewide organizations including The California Wellness Foundation’s grantee convenings and the California Department of Public Health’s California Home Visiting Program Summit. Connie graduated from the University of California, Davis with Bachelors Degrees in Biological Sciences and Political Science and received her Masters Degree in Public Health from San Jose State University. |
| Jane | Sanville | Office of National Drug Control Policy | Jane Sanville currently serves as a Senior Policy Analyst at the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Executive Office of the President. She has served in various roles at ONDCP, including as the Acting Assistant Director and Staff Director for the Office of Demand Reduction. She earlier served at White House Office of National AIDS Policy, at NIH/NIAID, and at the Institute of Medicine. At NIH, she was part of a team that established a community-based HIV/AIDS clinical trials program. She earned an A.B. from Vassar College and an MPH from the University of Michigan. |
| Joseph | Shannon | Thrive Center Omaha | Joseph "Jay" Shannon Jr. began working in prevention as a Site Supervisor for Communities in Schools, a group that works with minority students in high-poverty areas to provide a program for them to succeed both in school and life. Currently, Jay serves on the Planning and Founder Board for communities in schools. Jay also serves as a youth pastor for Greater St. Paul church where he runs a youth group and organizes community events to engage the congregation and youth in civic service. Jay also serves as the Regional Vice President of the International Youth Department for the Church of God in Christ. The group is focused on developing and empowering young people within the church to shape their communities and develop leadership skill that will facilitate future success. |
| Paul | Spencer | City of Medford | Paul Spencer is a community leader, public speaker, mentor, motivator, facilitator, and advisor. He is co-founder of Transitions to Change, a recovery consulting and services company that provides interventions, coaching, family support, and case management. Paul works with the City of Medford Health Department and their office of Prevention and Outreach as a Recovery Coach. Paul consults for other municipalities throughout Massachusetts, and has worked with families throughout the Northeast on various subject matter regarding substance use. |
| Laura | Stanley | Center for Community Research | Dr. Laura Stanley is an applied researcher specializing in community-based research and analysis. She has more than 15 years of experience conducting research with diverse populations in the fields of social impact assessment, policy and legislation analysis, public health, education and environmental prevention. As a Research/Evaluation Associate at Center for Community Research, Dr. Stanley collaborates with agencies on designing data collection tools, collecting and analyzing data, and reporting outcomes. She maintains expertise in both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, research design and implementation, process and outcome evaluations, and database management. Dr. Stanley earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of California, San Diego, and her B.S. in Social Ecology from the University of California, Irvine. |
| Shelly | Steiner | Carter County Drug Free Coalition | Shelly Steiner, a Certified Prevention Specialist with Pathways Regional Prevention Center in Ashland, KY, is the Drug Free Communities Grant Coordinator for the Carter County Drug Free Coalition. She earned her B.A. degree from Morehead State University in Secondary Education with a major in Spanish and a minor in Speech and Communications. She is very involved throughout the county with community organizations, including Carter County Youth Leadership Program, Carter County Fatherhood Initiative and the Carter County Recreation Alliance. She has presented at numerous local, state and national conferences, such as, Kentucky Youth Symposium, CADCA National Leadership Forum and CADCA Mid-Year Training Institute. She was also a member of the Midwest Alcohol Policy Summit and the Marijuana Policy and Advocacy Summit planning committees. |
| Ted | Strader | COPES, Inc. | Ted N. Strader is the Executive Director of COPES, Inc. and the Managing Partner of the Resilient Futures Network, LLC. He is a proud husband and father and a nationally recognized author, curriculum developer, trainer, motivational speaker, and publisher on topics related to fatherhood and marriage programming, parenting skills, family strengthening, and the prevention of substance abuse, violence and prison recidivism (Presenter, HIV & Substance Abuse Prevention Services, SAMHSA MAI CoC Webinar Series, March 8, 2016, webinar). His highly acclaimed Creating Lasting Family Connections® curriculum series is used throughout the U.S. and several other countries. This program holds three separate listings on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) and is recognized on several other national and international best practice lists. In his book, “Building Healthy Individuals, Families, and Communities: Creating Lasting Connections”, published in 2000, he introduced the concept of “Connect-Immunity”. Strader credits his theory of “Connect-Immunity” for his success in designing effective programs across multiple fields of study leading to numerous published articles in peer reviewed journals and inclusion on best practice lists. In 2013, Mr. Strader was named one of the Top 100 Leaders in the U.S. by the John C. Maxwell Leadership Team. |
| Melissa | Struzzo | Marin County Health and Human Services Department | Melissa Struzzo has been working in the social services field for over 20 years with a focus on HIV/AIDS/HCV prevention, sexually transmitted disease prevention, homeless services and substance use disorder prevention. Currently Ms. Struzzo works for the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services as a Senior Program Coordinator where she oversees the AOD prevention programs. In addition, she is the statewide prevention coordinator for Marin County focused on alcohol, marijuana, opioid and other drug prevention. Before working for Marin County, Ms. Struzzo was working with the Sonoma County Department of Health Services in a similar AOD Prevention role. Prior to moving to the North Bay in 2013, Ms. Struzzo was the principal investigator for multiple Alameda-county based research studies that included an evaluation of HIV risk reduction interventions for HIV-serodiscordant couples, and geomapping of HIV incidence and mobile HIV testing sites. The studies also reviewed the implementation of standardized HIV and HCV testing in Alameda County’s Methadone Clinics. Ms. Struzzo holds a Master’s in Public Health from San Jose State University and is currently a Sonoma County Board of Supervisors’ appointed Commissioner on AIDS. |
| Cindy | Swartzwelder | Mendez Foundation | Cindy Swartzwelder is the Vice President of Training and Implementation at the CE Mendez Foundation Inc. (a non-profit foundation based in Atlanta, Georgia, specializing in the field of drug and violence prevention education). In addition to teaching the Foundation’s programs to middle and high school students in local school systems, she also designs and facilitates the national training program for educators as part of the Mendez Foundation’s Too Good Programs. In the eight years she has been with the Foundation, she has trained more than 5,500 program teachers/facilitators at more than 350 Too Good trainings in 40 states. She also speaks at conferences about the positive effects of social emotional skills and how to teach those skills to children. A lifelong resident of Florida, Cindy earned a B.A. from the University of South Florida and has volunteered with both the No More Orphans and I Matter Too (mentoring/tutoring) programs. She currently serves as a Guardian ad Litem for children in dependency court in Hillsborough County and resides near Tampa. |
| Albert | Terrillion | Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America | Dr. Albert Terrillion is drug prevention coalition evaluation and researcher. Dr. Terrillion oversees the design, execution, and dissemination of CADCA’s Longitudinal Independent Evaluation, develops and prioritizes a research and evaluation agenda for the community coalition effort, and directs support for the design, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of investigative projects aimed at the development of more effective coalitions. He also leads work with federal, state, and local agencies to execute investigative projects to support multi-level coalition efforts and develops relationships with academic researchers and evaluators to advance knowledge and practice of coalition effectiveness, community problem solving, and community change. Dr. Terrillion is a health professional with over twenty years of experience at the local, state, and national level. He has worked both in and with rural and urban communities in Louisiana, Virginia, and other states and territories. His work has included building partnerships between health systems and community groups and supporting communities use data and evidence-based practices to improve health outcomes. He is originally from New Orleans where he worked in academic translational research, community improvement, and health policy. A native of New Orleans, Dr. Terrillion led several local initiatives to support the city's recovery from Hurricane Katrina. He holds a Doctor of Public Health from Tulane University’s School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine with graduate degrees in education and organizational development. In addition to his work with Drug Free Community grant recipients, he also teaches policy for Walden University. |
| Sue | Thau |  | Sue Thau is a Public Policy Consultant representing Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA). She is nationally recognized for her advocacy and legislative accomplishments on behalf of the substance abuse prevention field. She has an extensive background in public policy and has held high positions at the federal, state, and local levels. She was a Budget Examiner and Legislative Analyst at the Office of Management and Budget, in the Executive Office of the President for over ten years. Sue was a driving force behind the passage, reauthorization and full funding of the Drug-Free Communities Act. In addition, Sue has worked to save and enhance funding for all federal substance abuse prevention and treatment programs over the last two decades. She is highly respected as an expert on demand reduction issues by members of Congress and staff on both sides of the aisle on Capitol Hill. Sue has an undergraduate degree from Cornell University in Human Development and Family Studies and a Master's Degree from Rutgers University in City and Regional Planning. |
| Dawn | Thomas | Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services | Dawn M. Thomas, PhD, OCPS II, CMP |
| Lorena | Velasquez | Children's Hospital Los Angeles | Lorena Velasquez is currently the Project Coordinator at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine (DAYAM). Ms. Velasquez has worked with youth, providing workshops on alcohol and other drugs (AOD) and the impact on overall health. She worked as the Prevention Coordinator for the Project Faith/Latinas & Methamphetamine Programs at The Wall Las Memorias Project. There she saw the need for integration of HIV, AOD and other co-occurring disorders in addressing youth as a whole. For the past 4 years at DAYAM she has facilitated the United for Northeast Los Angeles (NELA) community mobilization effort. She initiated the Northeast Consortium that addresses AOD, gang activity, teen violence, and homelessness concerns. Ms. Velasquez obtained her BA in Sociology from The University of Arizona, 2004 and MSPA from California State University in 2013. She is committed in ensuring that community members have the resources needed to achieve well-being. |
| Jomella | Watson-Thompson | Work Group for Community Health and Development, University of Kansas | Dr. Watson-Thompson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Behavioral Science, and Associate Director for the Work Group for Community Health and Development at the University of Kansas. |
| Jennifer | Webster | Lane County Public Health | Jennifer Webster is a Senior Community Health Analyst in Lane County Public Health’s Prevention Section. Her work is focused on developing and implementing prevention strategies for Lane County’s Coordinated Care Organization, Trillium Community Health Plan. Prior to her work at Lane County, Jennifer was active in promoting access to reproductive health care for Oregon’s vulnerable populations as the director of the state’s largest independent abortion fund. Jennifer also has extensive experience in community organizing for a variety of social and economic justice issues, ranging from the global to the local. She has a passion is for women’s health, children’s health and reducing health disparities and has put that passion to work in many arenas, from addressing global trade imbalances to advocating for forest worker rights, to supporting families with resources to be successful parents. |
| Anna | Yaros | RTI International | Anna Yaros, Ph.D., is a research clinical psychologist with extensive professional experience in prevention and intervention research among children and adolescents. Her substantive interests include risk and protective factors for a variety of risk behaviors, including aggression, violence, delinquency, and substance use; measurement issues in youth risk behavior research; and evaluation of school- and community-based preventive programming, on large and small scales. As a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, she has interest in evidence-based interventions for mental health problems in children and adolescents with a research focus on implementation science and fidelity issues in dissemination research. Since joining RTI International, Dr. Yaros has collaborated on projects focusing on mental health services in schools, school-related gender-based violence, the prevention of substance use, local measurement of tobacco use, and well-being among children of incarcerated fathers participating in strengthening families interventions. Dr. Yaros has published quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods research in peer-reviewed journals. She has also provided mental health services to children, adolescents, and adults in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings. |