

NATIONAL DIALOGUES ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

63RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SPEAKER'S BIOS

Sarah L. Becker, MSW is a national behavioral health crisis consultant, trainer, and facilitator with 29 years of direct care and management experience across the full continuum of child and adult crisis care. She is a champion of community-based crisis services and has provided consultation to multiple states and local entities on implementing high-quality Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) in accordance with national best practices. Sarah is a faculty member of the nationally established MRSS Quality Learning Collaborative, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and a former vice president of the CT NASW Board of Directors.

Kirsten Beronio, JD has over 20 years of experience developing federal policies aimed at improving access to and quality of mental health and substance use disorder treatment. Her experience includes leadership positions at federal agencies, advocacy organizations, and the United States Senate. She recently returned to the Center for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Services (CMCS) at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a Senior Policy Advisor on mental health and substance use disorder issues. She was previously the Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs for the National Association for Behavioral Healthcare (NABH). Before joining NABH, she had served as a Senior Advisor on Behavioral Healthcare for CMCS. Previously, she was the Director of the Behavioral Healthcare Division within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Prior to working for HHS, she was Vice President for Federal Policy Development and Advocacy at Mental Health America. She also served as Medicaid and CHIP Counsel for the Senate Finance Committee and held other positions in the Senate.

Jennifer Black, MA is a results-driven behavioral health professional with over 25 years of experience developing, operating, and managing specialty programs for individuals with behavioral health needs. As a business development leader at Beacon Health Options, she is responsible for driving regional sales and growth strategy, leading a team of sales executives, and developing impactful health and wellness solutions for health plans and state and local governments. Ms. Black is a licensed clinician who is truly passionate about helping individuals live their lives to the fullest potential. Prior to joining Beacon, she spent many years in state government where she oversaw a statewide Medicaid program and other managed healthcare services. However, her early career roles in the private non-profit sector providing direct care have really helped to shape her business development philosophy, ensuring individual and family whole health outcomes are at the heart of all she does. She holds a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a master's degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Hartford. She resides in Connecticut with her husband, two young sons, and an anxious dog named Tallulah.



Neal Bowen, Ph.D. is a psychologist and the Director of the Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) in the New Mexico Human Services Department, overseeing all behavioral health services in the state. Prior to his appointment in this role by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, Dr. Bowen served as the Chief Mental Health Officer for Hidalgo Medical Services, a Federally Qualified Health Center located on the Mexico border in an underserved and economically challenged rural area. In 2011, Dr. Bowen was named the Behavioral Health Provider of the Year by the New Mexico Primary Care Association. Dr. Bowen became a psychologist later in life, after working to defend human rights in war zones, among other occupations. Witnessing a project in Sri Lanka created by a Dutch psychologist, training village health workers to provide mental health first aid, inspired him to obtain training in psychology. After initial work in Milan, he obtained degrees, including a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology, from the University of Texas at Austin. While there, he was awarded a fellowship for his work with refugees, culminating in the creation of The Sunrise Center, a mental health agency for refugees and asylum seekers. He joined the faculty of Central Washington University where he conducted research in multicultural competencies before moving to New Mexico.

Amy Brinkley served for five (5) years as the Director of Recovery Support Services in the state of Indiana working to expand peer/recovery support services across the state with the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction. She most recently served for 2 years as the Chairperson for NASMHPD's Division of Recovery Support Services advocating for the professionalization of recovery supports across the country and currently Amy serves as NASMHPD's (National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors) Recovery Support Systems Coordinator. Amy has been author on several APA articles related to peer support through her work on the APA Policy Advisory Board and continues to serve in this capacity today. Amy is a person with direct lived experience with Mental Health and Substance Use recovery and the criminal justice system. Her passion and expertise are driven from the loss of three brothers to suicide and her heart is to advocate for change across the country through effective recovery data collection and evaluation processes that drive recovery-oriented outcomes which will in turn improve the quality of life and recovery for people with substance use disorders and mental illness.

Jonah C. Cunningham, MPP currently serves as President and CEO of the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHDD). In this role he proactively advocates for national policies that recognize and support the critical role counties play in caring for people affected by mental illness, addiction, and developmental disabilities. In this capacity he also serves as Executive Director of the National Association for Rural Mental Health. Prior to joining NACBHDD, Jonah worked at Trust for America's Health, a public health think tank, where he focused extensively on ways to reduce mortality from substance misuse and suicide. Additionally, he worked as a congressional staffer for several years in the office of Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano (CA) where he helped to reestablish the Congressional Mental Health Caucus and created a Suicide Prevention Task Force within the Caucus. Jonah C. Cunningham has received numerous awards and recognition for his commitment to the field of behavioral health and those served by the nation's behavioral health system. Jonah has a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Utah and a Master of Public Policy from The George Washington University. In his free time, he enjoys learning how to cook and is an avid Jiu-Jitsu practitioner.

Ann Darling, MS is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker employed as a Program Manager within the Louisiana Department of Health/Office of Behavioral Health (OBH). Since graduating with her Master's degree in Social Work from Louisiana State University, Ms. Darling has worked with adults with serious mental illness. In her tenure with the state, Ms. Darling has led the implementation of a number of evidence-based practices for adults with serious mental illness living in the community, including Supported Employment, Peer Support, and Assertive Community Treatment services. Currently, Ms. Darling oversees the Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review Level II operations as well as a newly formed Community Integration/Transition Coordination program, which includes a cadre of Transition Coordinators and Peer In-Reach Specialists working to move individuals into the community from institutional settings. In addition to this programmatic oversight, Ms. Darling is a primary point of contact within OBH on implementation activities associated with Louisiana's Agreement to Resolve the Department of Justice (DoJ) Investigation related to individuals with mental illness living in nursing facilities and is lead on activities related to the implementation of the Louisiana Crisis Response System (LA-CRS).

Sheri Dawson, RN, BS has devoted most of her professional career to the prevention, treatment and recovery of individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. As a graduate of Bryan School of Nursing and Nebraska Wesleyan University, Sheri has over 40 years in the nursing field and 21 years applying her nursing administrative skills and talents within Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services. In 2015 she was appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts to serve as the Director of the Division of Behavioral Health within the Department. Since assuming this role, she is currently serving as President on the Board of the *National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)* as well as the Region VII Representative to the *National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)* Board of Directors. Sheri is passionate about ensuring behavioral health is a normalized and integrated part of the healthcare conversation. Connecting those who are experiencing distress and helping them to begin the healing process has to be a priority for all Nebraskans.

Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, PhD is currently Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Prior to her current appointment, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon was an Adjunct Associate Professor at Yale University where she served on faculty for the past 20 years. While at Yale Dr. Delphin-Rittmon served as the Director of Cultural Competence and Research Consultation with the Yale University Program for Recovery and Community Health. In May 2014, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon completed a two-year White House appointment working as a Senior Advisor to the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Through her 20-year career in the behavioral health field Dr. Delphin-Rittmon has extensive experience in the design, evaluation, and administration of mental health, substance use and prevention services and systems and has received several awards for advancing policy in these areas. Most recently, she received the 2019 State Service Award from the National Association of State Drug and Alcohol Directors and the 2016 Mental Health Award for Excellence from the United Nations Committee on Mental Health.

Jannette Dupuy, PhD is the Quality Director in the Office of Quality Improvement for the Bureau of Primary Health Care at HRSA. The Quality organizational unit oversees several cross cutting initiatives for the national Health Center Program including the HRSA Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative, cancer screening and prevention, Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorders, Oral Health, Hypertension, HIV care, STIs and Hep, Workforce Well-being, Maternal Child Health and Infection Control. Dr. Dupuy is a Psychologist by training.

Brian Edds, MBA is the Chief Product Officer of AbleTo. He leads AbleTo's product strategy and design development. Prior to AbleTo he led the launch and development of Sanvello. Brian is a pragmatic product leader with broad experience in healthcare, workflow optimization and member experience. Previously, Brian led product strategy at Spok and Xora/Gearworks. Brian earned both his MBA and Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Economics from the University of Minnesota.

Dana Foglesong, MSW, NCPS, CRPS is the National Senior Director of Recovery and Resiliency (R&R) Services for Magellan Healthcare. In this role, Dana works to transform healthcare by expanding access to peer support and other recovery support services and improve capacity to provide healing-centered care. She joined Magellan in 2015 as a director for a Medicaid specialty plan in Florida where she increased access to billable and non-billable peer support services and led a 1115 housing waiver pilot to expand availability of housing support services. Prior to working in state government, Dana founded the Peer Support Coalition of Florida, a statewide peer network, to ensure people served and their families were active participants in the design, implementation and evaluation of systems and service delivery practices. She has held multiple national leadership roles and is a nationally certified peer specialist. She holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Central Florida.

Isabel Gorgoroso, BSN is a Lead Public Health Analyst for the Behavioral and Public Health Branch. She previously served as Lead Project Officer for the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Professionals and the Opioid Workforce Expansion Program for Professionals at HRSA. Prior to joining HRSA's Behavioral and Public Health Branch, she worked at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center as a Senior Clinical Research Nurse, where she provided bedside care to surgical and medical oncological patients enrolled in clinical trials. Prior to her career in nursing, she was a Research Assistant in the Immunology and Infectious Diseases Section of the Dept. of Transfusion Medicine at NIH. She was commissioned into the United States Public Health Service and has deployed across the country providing clinical care to medically underserved communities as well as during times of natural disasters. She received a BS in Nursing from the University of Rochester, a graduate certificate in Global Health from the Uniformed Services University of Health Services, and is scheduled to graduate December 2022 with a MPH from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



Cynthia Harne, MSW, LCSW-C is the Chief of the Medical Training and Geriatrics Branch in the Division of Medicine and Dentistry at HRSA. She manages medical training, public health, behavioral health, and geriatrics workforce development grant programs. Prior to this position, Ms. Harne served as a Public Health Analyst and the Project Officer for the Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) Program in the Division of Nursing and Public Health, Behavioral and Public Health Branch. She also served as a Public Health Analyst in the Division of Public Health and Interdisciplinary Education where she was the Project Officer for the GPE and the Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training (MBHET) grant programs. Prior to coming to HRSA, she worked as a social work manager with the Department of the Army. She held various social work clinical and management positions in state government. She served on task forces and committees at the state and federal level regarding mental health, suicide, and family violence issues. Ms. Harne has a Master's degree from the University of Maryland, School of Social Work and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Linda Henderson-Smith, PhD, LPC, CPCS, CCMP, is the Sr. Director of Crisis and Children's Products at Beacon Health Options. She is a licensed professional counselor, certified professional counselor supervisor, Six Sigma Black Belt and Certified Change Management Practitioner. She has over 20 years of clinical and administrative experience in community-based mental health. She previously served as the Sr. Director of Children and Trauma-Informed Services at the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. Prior to that she worked at Georgetown University National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health as the Director of Mental Health Planning and Policy. While at Georgetown she helped develop training regarding Trauma-Informed Systems, especially for people with co-occurring developmental and behavioral health disorders.

Caren Howard, BA currently serves as Director of Policy and Advocacy for Mental Health America and has 13 years' experience in legislative and political affairs, and advocacy. Howard advises and carries out the policy and advocacy strategy for a national consumer advocacy organization whose mission is to put the voices of people with lived experience of mental health conditions at the helm of decision-making both at the policy table and in health care settings. She educates and persuades federal and state policymakers to act on a wide range of issues that impact individuals with mental health conditions including health care, education, criminal justice, and housing, and she facilitates relationship between state and local MHA affiliates and their federal and state public officials through Hill Days and campaigns.

Alexis Kirk, PhD is a creative, values-driven change management expert with a passion for creating better workplaces through training, leadership development, improved teaming and communication, and organizational culture change. She develops leaders at all levels to grow their skills for supporting transformational change, coaching employees, fostering supportive and inclusive environments, and driving business outcomes. Alexis brokers connections across siloes and creates psychologically safe spaces for overcoming tough challenges. With over 10 years of experience developing and implementing national, state,

and organization-wide programs, she has a demonstrated track record of successful project execution and persistence in the face of complex challenges.

Ron Manderscheid, PhD serves on the Executive Leadership Team for Capstone Solutions Transformational Consulting, Principal. His career spans the government, nonprofit and academic sectors, and includes working with Congress and Administration, federal agencies, NGOs and universities. Until recently, he was President/CEO of the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors and National Association for Rural Mental Health. Currently he serves on the boards of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, The National Grand Challenge for Social Work Initiative, the Danya Institute, the NASMHPD Research Institute and the National Register of Health Service Psychologists. Dr. Manderscheid received his Doctorate degree from the University of Maryland in Social Psychology and Statistics.

Dennis Mohatt, MA received his undergraduate training at the University of Oregon, and received a NIMH Training Fellowship in rural mental health while at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania, where he received a Master of Arts in rural community-clinical psychology. He has been a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association for Rural Mental Health since 1987 and served as the association's President from 1992-1995. In 1996, Dennis was awarded the Victor I. Howery Award for outstanding contributions to rural mental health. In 2019, Dennis was nominated and selected for the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Practice in Community Psychology Award from Division 27 of the American Psychological Association. His professional work has primarily focused on rural and remote issues of prevention and treatment, and integration of mental health with other systems of care (e.g., primary care, school health, military/Veteran). In his role at WICHE, he leads the mission to improve systems of behavioral health care and build a highly competent behavioral health workforce for the West by promoting innovation, cooperation, resource sharing, and data driven public policy formation.

Tonja Myles is an ordained minister, community activist, peer counselor, veteran, subject matter expert in mental health, untreated trauma, a faith-based approach to substance abuse recovery and sought after counsel for community based and system approaches. She promotes mental health awareness and rehabilitation with sharing her life experiences being in recovery from addictions for over 36 years, suicide survivor, victim of childhood and adult sexual abuse and diagnosis of PTSD. Her story is shared in published books, magazines, documentaries, featured talk show guest and national television series. She is a passionate advocate of humane and ethical treatment of individuals with mental illness, substance abuse, sexual trauma, domestic abuse and those formally, and or incarcerated.

Stephen Phillippi, PhD is the Chair of Behavioral & Community Health Sciences at the LSU School of Public Health. He is also the Director of the Institute for Public Health & Justice and Founding Director of the Center for Evidence to Practice, both working to bring evidence-based practices and supportive policies to states and local communities. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Clinically Certified Forensic Counselor. He has a twenty-eight year history of developing, managing, evaluating, and providing direct services. Dr. Phillippi is the

PI on several studies, teaches, writes, consults, and participates in a number of professional and public service boards.



Jessica J. Reed, MS is an Implementation Science Specialist in the Implementation Science Department in the Research Institute at Centerstone. She supports people and organizations to make change that sticks. Jessica is interested in the use and scale-up of evidence-based programs and practices and supporting systems to change from business as usual to business unusual. Jessica has over two decades of experience delivering and supporting the use of effective programs, practices, and policies. Jessica is also interested in what it takes to support implementation and TA support providers to do their work. She has designed and implemented coaching practices for intermediary organizations, executives, and people using evidence based practices. Jessica focuses on workforce development best practices and is passionate about supporting leaders and organizations to support the workforce in human services systems to prevent burnout and reduce turnover. She is passionate about equity, inclusion, racial justice, and creating nurturing, safe, and trauma informed environments for people in early childhood and beyond to learn, grow, and thrive.

Carrie Slatton-Hodges, MS is the Commissioner for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Prior to her current role, Carrie served 12 years as Deputy Commissioner for ODMHSAS, overseeing treatment and recovery services statewide. She is committed to mental health and substance use prevention, treatment and recovery for Oklahomans and believes that everyone deserves to live a valuable, productive life in the community. Carrie has transformed the delivery of treatment services through innovative programming and strategically leveraging resources to improve Oklahoma's behavioral health, including the launch of Urgent Behavioral Health Care Centers, integrating Comprehensive Community Addiction Recovery Centers, developing a system of ambulatory detoxification services, and transitioning to an outcome-based payment system for Community Behavioral Health Centers. She has a Bachelor's degree from Southern Nazarene University and a Master's in Applied Psychology from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and has been a Licensed Professional Counselor for 29 years.

Lisa St George, MSW, CPRP, CPRSS has been working in human services for the past 40 years. Her work has included childhood oncology family and child support, Child Protective Services Specialist III and Unit Supervisor, and for the past 23 years she has served RI International developing peer support programming, training and supervision of multiple diverse teams of peer supporters in Phoenix, AZ, San Diego, CA, Orange County, CA, Ventura County, CA, and Auckland, New Zealand. She has led crisis services in Jacksonville, NC, and has been on the executive leadership team for the duration of her tenure at RI International. She has written multiple publications seen in journals and books. In addition, she is the lead author of RI International's Peer Employment Training which has trained over 16,000 peer support providers worldwide, and Crisis Training for Peers and other Paraprofessionals a 17-module training that provides preparation to work within the crisis continuum of care. She has served on the Arizona Human Rights Committee and Behavioral Health Planning Council. Her years of working with people in recovery have reinforced her belief in the beauty and strength of the human spirit!

Karen Stubbs, JD joined the Louisiana Department of Health in 2013 and serves as the Assistant Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Office of Behavioral Health (OBH). As head of the state Office of Behavioral Health, Karen leads policy decisions addressing prevention and treatment of mental illness, substance use disorders, and addictive disorders. Her office acts as monitors and subject matter consultants for the children's Medicaid Coordinated System of Care program and the Medicaid Healthy Louisiana managed care plans, which manage behavioral health services. Karen's career spans leadership roles in the Office of Juvenile Justice and a prior Governor's administration as well as being a former criminal prosecutor.

Ken Thompson, MD is a community psychiatrist with extensive experience in academia, community services, advocacy and government. He graduated from Kenyon College and Boston University School of Medicine. He did his residency at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and a post-doc at Yale, where he served his obligation as a recipient of a National Health Service Corps Scholarship. He has served on the faculty of both Yale and the University of Pittsburgh and has been the Medical Director of the Center for Mental Health Services at SAMHSA and at Recovery Innovations. Dr. Thompson is currently the Medical Director of the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Leadership Council (PPLC), where he oversees the work of four Centers of Excellence in Public Service Psychiatry in the Commonwealth and the Fellowship programs they run. The PPLC has also launched a learning collaborative of the state's residency training directors to work to ensure that the underrepresented minorities in medicine are significantly and meaningfully represented among residents trained in the state.

Jeffrey Vanderploeg, PhD is the President and CEO of the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI), a non-profit organization located in Farmington, Connecticut. Dr. Vanderploeg leads CHDI's work in six core areas: behavioral health systems development, evidence-based treatment dissemination, comprehensive school mental health, trauma informed care, quality improvement and measurement-based care, and best practice model development and innovation. CHDI works in close partnership with state agencies, providers, advocates, and other stakeholders, and has helped establish Connecticut as a national leader in comprehensive and equitable behavioral health services for children and their families. Dr. Vanderploeg serves on numerous statewide councils, committees, and task forces in the state, and provides consultation across the country on children's behavioral health systems of care, mobile response, and quality improvement strategies. He received a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Bowling Green State University, completed Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships at Yale University School of Medicine, and holds voluntary faculty appointments in the Departments of Psychiatry at Yale and the University of Connecticut Health Center.

Javonda Williams Moss, PhD serves as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, College of Social Work. Her 15 + years of higher education administrative experience, include work in academic affairs, recruitment, retention, educational assessment, alumni affairs and community engagement. Dr Williams Moss has held various academic administrative positions including: Assistant/ Associate Dean at The University of Alabama School of Social Work (2015-2021), Bachelor of Social Work Program Director at The University of Alabama School of Social Work (2009-2015) and Chair of the Social Work Department at Miles College (2006-2009). Dr. Williams Moss is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and has extensive clinical experience working with sexually abused children and adolescents and survivors of

sexual assault and human trafficking. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Williams Moss has an evolving research portfolio that focuses on family and child welfare, childhood trauma and multi-systemic interventions to trauma and abuse.

Todd Wurtz, PA-C was a US Army Paratrooper- Aid Assault and UH-60 Blackhawk Crew Chief. He spent the summer of 2005 in the Himalayan Mountains as medical support to geologic researchers. His experiences consist of 13 years in Emergency Medicine, 9 years in Pain/Addiction Medicine and he has provided service work in Guatemala and Haiti. Todd graduated from Florida State University and from the University of Nebraska Medical Center as a Physician Assistant.