



# ***Metrics That Matter***

## ***Establishing Metrics to Measure Success: Diversion, Data, and Accountability***

### ***Speaker Bios***

**September 5 - 6, 2024**

**Sacramento | Virtual**



**Three Bears Consulting**

**W2D 2024 – SPEAKER BIOS**



**Elizabeth Basnett**

Elizabeth “Liz” Basnett, was appointed as the Director of the California Emergency Medical Services Authority in August 2023. She previously held this role as the Acting Director since November, 2021.

Liz earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Missouri, Columbia. Determined to become a leading expert in her field, she pursued a master’s degree in emergency and Disaster Management from Georgetown University, Washington D.C., which laid the groundwork for her passion for healthcare and emergency and disaster management.

Liz stands as a leader dedicated to public service and an unwavering appetite to inspire transformation for whole of person care. As Director of the Emergency Medical Services Authority, Liz holds a unique position to bring about transformative change and elevate emergency care to new heights in California.



**Luke Bergmann**

Luke Bergmann, Ph.D, is the Director of Behavioral Health Services for the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency. Prior to this position, Dr. Bergmann worked for 9 years in New York City. He most recently served as Assistant Vice President over Behavioral Health at NYC Health + Hospitals, the nation’s largest public hospital system and before that, as Director of the Office of Program and Policy in the Bureau of Alcohol and Drugs at the NYC Department of Health. Dr. Bergmann has also held a variety of academic research and faculty positions, including at Oregon Health and Science University, The University of Michigan and the City University of New York. Dr. Bergmann was trained at the University of Michigan, where he earned a Ph.D in Social Work and Cultural Anthropology. He completed post-doctoral fellowships at UC San Francisco’s Institute for Health Policy and UC Berkeley’s School of Public Health.

**Bill Brown**

*"I am humbled to have been elected by – and to serve – the people of Santa Barbara County. It is my honor and privilege to lead the men and women of our Sheriff's Office, some of the finest law enforcement and corrections professionals on the planet."*

Bill Brown has served as Santa Barbara County's Sheriff-Coroner since January 9, 2007. He was first elected to that constitutional office on November 7, 2006, and re-elected to a second term in June, 2010, to a third term in June, 2014, to a fourth term in June, 2018, and to his present fifth term in June, 2022.

Beginning his law enforcement career in 1977 with the Pacifica Police Department in the San Francisco Bay area, Bill Brown transferred to the Inglewood Police Department in 1980. He served that Los Angeles County community as a police officer, sergeant, lieutenant and acting-captain until 1992, when he was selected as chief of police for the City of Moscow, Idaho. In that position he was responsible for overseeing police operations for both the City of Moscow and the University of Idaho. In 1995, Brown was selected as chief of police for the City of Lompoc, being only the eighth person to hold the title of police chief in that community since it incorporated in 1899. He led the Lompoc Police Department for the next 11 years until being elected to his present office.

Sheriff Brown received his master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California in 1995. He was president of the 91st Class of the Delinquency Control Institute, and is a graduate of the Northwest Command College, the 169th Session of the FBI National Academy, and the 33rd Session of the FBI National Executive Institute.

Sheriff Brown was elected by his peers as President of the Major County Sheriffs of America and began his two-year term on February 9, 2024. Sheriff Brown is also a past president of both the California State Sheriffs' Association and the California Police Chiefs' Association, the only person to have ever held both positions. Since 2010 he has served as a Commissioner on the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for the State of California, and he leads Santa Barbara County's version of "Stepping Up," a National Initiative to Reduce the Number of Mentally Ill People in Jails. In 2022 Sheriff Brown started "Project Opioid" in Santa Barbara County, an initiative that regularly convenes a diverse group of high-level, county-wide leaders committed to raising awareness about, and reducing the number of overdose deaths from fentanyl and other illicit drugs. He is also Chairman of the Santa Barbara County Law Enforcement Chiefs (C.L.E.C.).

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In 2016, Sheriff Brown was selected by the California Peace Officers' Association for their highest honor, the Sherman Block Law Enforcement Professional of the Year award. He has also received the Westmont Medal from Westmont College, and the Goleta Elks Outstanding Service Award, both for his leadership during the twin disasters of the Thomas Fire and the Montecito 1/9 Debris Flow. Some of his other accolades include the Santa Barbara County Rescue Mission's Léni Fé Bland Award, the Santa Barbara County Community Action Commission's Community Champion Award, the California Forensic Mental Health Association's Words to Deeds Paradigm Award, and their Christine M. West award for significant contributions to the field of forensic mental health.

Active in his community, Sheriff Brown serves as an honorary board member for the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center and Santa Barbara Domestic Violence Solutions, as an advisory board member of the Anti-Defamation League and the United Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara County, and as a Red Cross Ambassador for the Santa Barbara Chapter of the American Red Cross. He is also a steering committee member for Santa Barbara's "Fighting Back" (Against Alcohol & Drug Abuse), sits on the Lompoc Hospital District Foundation's Board of Trustees, and is a member of the Pierre Claeysens' Veterans Foundation's Board of Directors.

Sheriff Brown is deeply committed to the philosophy of community policing and corrections, wherein peace officers and citizens work together to identify and seek long-term solutions to problems relating to crime, fear of crime, neighborhood decay and quality of life. Sheriff Brown and his wife, Donna, have been happily married for more than 45 years and have three grown children.

**Anh Thu Bui**

Anh Thu Bui, M. D., Project Director, 988-Crisis Care Continuum, Public Health Medical Administrator, California Health and Human Services Agency, has worked as a community psychiatrist in California for over twenty years, serving individuals of all ages in several county specialty mental health programs and community health centers. She earned her Medical Degree from the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine in 1995 and holds board certifications in Psychiatry, Community and Public Psychiatry, and Addiction Medicine. She is a proud alumna of the California Health Care Foundation Health Care Leadership Program, administered by Healthforce Center at UCSF.

**W2D 2024 – SPEAKER BIOS (continued)**

Much of her work in advocating for individuals with serious mental illness and substance use disorders has been informed by experiencing and witnessing trauma in her family and community as a refugee from Vietnam, and 35 years later, seeing the positive expansion of essential health services via the Affordable Care Act. She worked at the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for two years as a Medical Consultant in Behavioral Health, including serving as Project Director for the SAMHSA 988 Cooperative Agreement to DHCS to support implementation of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

She is honored to have joined the California Health and Human Services Agency since October 2023 to work on 988 implementation and integration into the crisis care continuum and improve behavioral health services for all Californians.

**Rayshell Chambers**

Rayshell Chambers is the co-founder and Executive Director of Painted Brain, a mental health tech nonprofit based in Los Angeles, that provides peer-based services and practice training in technology and clinical mental health. She is also an independent consultant who provides capacity-building support and grant writing for small nonprofits that serve communities of color. She has dedicated over 20 years of her personal and professional pursuits to designing and advocating for comprehensive health and human service programs that enhance the human condition of the most vulnerable populations. Rayshell holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master of Public Administration degree in public policy and administration from California State University, Long Beach, and utilizes both her cultural experiences and lived mental health challenges as a peer to design culturally responsive programs.

**Randy Clopton**

Randy Clopton is a Research Associate with the Possibility Lab. Randy has spent much of his career in applied research and has conducted research on issues related to data and technology, education, health, and equity. Currently, his work with the Possibility Lab focuses on effective use of data and data management systems, as well as quantitative analyses.

**W2D 2024 – SPEAKER BIOS (continued)****Rose Colangelo**

Ms. Rose Colangelo, MSN, RN, CEN is the Director of Emergency Services at Sutter Roseville Medical Center. Ms. Colangelo, a registered nurse since 2004 graduated with her master’s in nursing from Point Loma Nazarene in 2015. She is board member North for the Association of California Nurse Leaders (ACNL) and co-chair for the California Hospital Association EMS/Trauma Committee.

**Budge Currier**

Since 2011 Budge Currier has served with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). In his current role as Assistant Director, Public Safety Communications, Budge leads a team of over 400 professionals that are responsible for the statewide public safety radio system, microwave network, the 9-1-1 system that supports 438 Public Safety Answering Points with over 27 million 9-1-1 calls per year, the 9-8-8 system, and the Emergency Communications system.

Budge has over 30 years of communication experience and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Michigan and a Master’s degree in Electrical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. Budge is a member of NENA, APCO, NASNA, and NCSWIC.

**Erik Ewers**

Co-Director and editor Erik Ewers has worked with documentary filmmaker Ken Burns — as Ewers likes to say — “ever since ‘The Civil War.’”

For more than 30 years, Erik has edited nearly all Burns’s single and multi-episodic films including *Baseball*, *Jazz*, *Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*, *Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson*, *The National Parks*, *Mark Twain*, *Prohibition*, *The Roosevelts*, *The War*, *The Vietnam War*, and serving as senior editor on *Country Music*, and *Hemingway*.

Erik has been nominated for more than seven personal and program Emmy Awards and was awarded one editing Emmy and three program-series Emmys, as well as two prestigious ACE Eddie Award nominations and one ACE Award for “Best Edited Documentary of 2015.”

Erik is co-director and senior editor at Ewers Brothers Productions, a preferred collaborative company in the co-creation of Ken’s films. Ewers Brothers co-directed with Ken to create

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the two-hour film *The Mayo Clinic: Faith, Hope, Science*, which broadcast on PBS in 2018, and their partnership continued with the June 2022 broadcast of the film series, *Hiding in Plain Sight: Youth Mental Illness*.

Currently, Erik is at work with Burns, Florentine Films, and Ewers Brothers Productions on a sequel to their 2022 film on America’s adult mental health crisis, and a 3-hour film on the life and legacy of 19th century writer and environmentalist Henry David Thoreau.



**Toby Ewing**

Toby Ewing, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. Toby joined the Mental Health Commission in 2015 after working for governance reform as a consultant to the California State Senate, research director at California Forward, and a project manager at the Little Hoover Commission. In addition, Ewing worked as the Director of the California Research Bureau and the California Cost Control Commission.

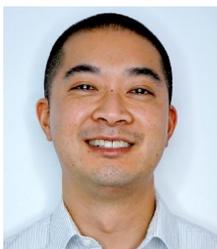
With the Commission, Toby launched California’s first Mental Health Innovation Summit and an Innovation Incubator to promote novel approaches to improving mental health systems in California. He has also steadfastly worked to increase public access to high-quality data on mental health funding, programs, and outcomes.

Toby has championed community engagement with more than \$5 million in annual grants that support stakeholder advocacy, the launch of a youth leadership initiative, and creative ways of reaching the public, including through community engagement and filmmaking. The goal has always been the same: to elevate the voices of consumers, family members, and communities on mental health issues.

Toby did his undergraduate studies at Grinnell College and received a Ph.D. in Sociology from Syracuse University. He served as a Fulbright Scholar in Central America.

**W2D 2024 – SPEAKER BIOS (continued)****Ambarin Faizi**

Dr. Ambarin Faizi is currently serving as an Assistant Medical Director at the California Department of State Hospitals. In her role as the IST Solutions Psychiatrist, she is dedicated to serving a severely mentally ill population across the State, focusing on the delivery of excellent patient care and collaborative approaches to improving patients' quality of life. She is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in Psychiatry with added qualification in Forensic Psychiatry. She completed her forensic psychiatry fellowship training at the University of California, Davis following general psychiatry residency training at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center. She received her Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her undergraduate studies in Biological Sciences at the University of California, Riverside.

**Tyler Fong**

Tyler Fong, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Brilliant Corners, has worked alongside vulnerable populations for over 17 years in the Bay Area, Los Angeles County, the Inland Empire, and San Diego. Currently, Tyler is the Deputy Chief Operating Officer at Brilliant Corners, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to using housing as a healthcare intervention/solution for individuals experiencing homelessness. While with Brilliant Corners, Tyler was one of the program architects for the Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool, a nationally recognized rental subsidy and housing administration program in Los Angeles that has housed over 10,000 Angelenos since 2013. Tyler currently provides oversight to similar programs in the Bay Area, Inland Empire, and San Diego.

**Tara Gamboa-Eastman**

Tara Gamboa-Eastman, Director of Government Affairs for the Steinberg Institute is an accomplished advocate with a deep commitment to ensuring equitable access to behavioral health care. During her time at the Institute, she has been the lead advocate for AB 988 (Bauer-Kahan, 2022) to implement the 988 crisis care continuum in California.

Before coming to the Steinberg Institute, Tara worked in the California legislature on issues related to economic justice, housing, homelessness, and human services.

Tara holds a bachelor's degree in political science from UC Berkeley and a Master's of Public Policy from Harvard University.

**W2D 2024 – SPEAKER BIOS (continued)****Brenda Grealish**

Brenda Grealish, MA, is currently the Executive Officer of the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health, which is part of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. She served as Chief of the Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division at the California Department of Health Care Services beginning in 2019, and since 2013, she has served in several positions, including Chief of the former Mental Health Services Division and Assistant Deputy and Acting Deputy Director for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services. She held several positions at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Office of Research from 2009 to 2013, including Deputy Director, Research Manager III, and Research Manager II. Brenda held several positions at the former California Department of Mental Health from 1999 to 2009, including Research Program Specialist I, Research Analyst II, and Research Analyst I. She earned a Master of Arts degree in psychology from California State University, Sacramento.

**Latonya S. Harris**

Latonya S. Harris is a Research Scientist at the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. She received her doctorate in Developmental Psychology from UC Davis where she studied the influence of trauma and violence on child and youth well-being and cognitive development. She was also very interested in factors that promote youth risk and resilience and positive youth development. Prior to graduate school, Dr. Harris served as program administrator for Head Start (in the City of Oakland), and after receiving her doctorate, engaged in a rich variety of social science research, applied research, and evaluation of social programs and services. For instance, she has conducted program evaluation for the Youth, Families, and Communities unit of University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Sciences to assess a youth curriculum and youth outcomes; and, to assess a family nutrition education program. As a researcher for a school district, she conducted technical assistance and training to staff to implement statewide assessments and she also evaluated school enrichment programs. Currently, Dr. Harris is a Research Scientist with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission where she has engaged in criminal justice and mental health research and data analysis; has developed data use agreements and data partnerships with other state departments; has examined the impact of trauma and adverse childhood experiences on consumer's mental health; and, has helped to establish an evaluation of the statewide implementation of mental health services in school settings.

**Todd Henry**

Deputy Police Chief Todd Henry has been with the Davis Police Department since March of 2023 and has over 28 years of experience in law enforcement. He was with the Sacramento Sheriff's Office for over 25 years, where he held various operational and management positions within investigations, patrol, air operations, SWAT, and several regional task forces. While with the Sacramento Sheriff's Office, Todd was part of the development team responsible for implementing the first co-responder mobile crisis team in north Sacramento County. In collaboration with Yolo County HHSA, Todd currently has operational oversight for the co-responder program within the City of Davis. He holds a Master of Science in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice Management, is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, and was a member of the Placer County Local Mental Health Board for three years.

**Kamilah Holloway**

Kamilah Holloway is a Research Scientist III with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH). As an RSIII, she plans, organizes, and directs scientific research studies to provide support to the CCJBH. This unique position is also under contract with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Data Management and Analytics Division (DMAD), reporting to the DMAD Research and Evaluation Section Chief wherein she analyzes Medi-Cal enrollment, utilization, and quality measures for justice-involved populations. She uses SAS, Structured Query

Language (SQL), geographic information, and data linkage software for data management and to conduct data manipulation and statistical analysis.

Prior to her work with CDCR, she was the Quality and Network Adequacy Oversight Branch (QNAOB) Chief within the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division (MCBHD). QNAOB is responsible for evaluating County Mental Health Plan's (MHP) and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System's (DMC-ODS) annual Network Adequacy (NA) submissions to determine sufficiency to meet Medi-Cal beneficiary Specialty Mental Health Service (SMHS) and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment needs and the quality of the services provided. She also provided subject matter expertise in quality improvement, cultural humility, budgetary processes, contract management as well as collaboration with CDPH on the community mental health equity project contracts.

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Prior to working for MCBHD, Ms. Holloway worked as a Research Data Supervisor II with the DHCS, Community Services Division where she and her team managed Medi-Cal claims data for the updating of SMHS performance Dashboards as well as provided data to support Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Program oversight efforts.

Ms. Holloway received both a Master’s Degree in Industrial and Organizational (I/O) Psychology and a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology from California State University, Sacramento.

**Curtis Howard**

Curtis Howard is the founder of LIVEX, a lived experience consultant specializing in the areas of homelessness, gangs, substance abuse, and carceral logic. He is the President of the San Diego Chapter of All of Us or None (AOUON), a national organization that advocates for formerly incarcerated people and their families. Curtis serves as a Consultant with the Regional Task Force on Homelessness, San Diego Continuum of Care Board member, and has authored two books. He is formerly incarcerated and formerly homeless.

**Yolanda James-Sevilla**

Yolanda James-Sevilla is the Pretrial Division Director for Santa Cruz County Probation. With a BS in Administration of Justice and a Doctor of Jurisprudence, I have served the County of Santa Cruz for over 37 years, including 23 years at the Probation Department in roles such as DPO, Supervisor, and ADD. My key contributions include supervising the AB 109 unit, supporting the MAT Vivitrol pilot and CalAIM, facilitating the Thinking for a Change program, helping design the Probation Success Center, co-managing the Proposition 47 Cafes grant, and overseeing the field safety program. I have been working in pretrial services since 2016.

**Corinne Kamerman**

Corinne Kamerman is the Chief for Community and Crisis Care Programs Branch. Corinne began her state service career in 2016 with the California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS)/California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). While at CCHCS/CDCR, Corinne served many roles including managing the contact tracing unit during the initial COVID outbreak, functioning as a Correctional Health Services Administrator, preparing for Joint Commission Accreditation, and implementing a Women’s Health Program.

Corinne is a certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and Black Belt Practitioner and has completed complex process improvement projects at Mule Creek State Prison and California Health Care Facility. Additionally, she served as a subject matter expert on CCHCS’s electronic health record rollout in 2016 and 2017 and was selected as an Ambassador for CCHCS’s Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment program.

Corinne began working for the California Department of Health Care Services in October 2022 and currently serves as the Project Director for a 988 grant received from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Additionally, she manages the Crisis Care Section and oversees contracts with the California 988 Crisis Centers as well as statewide implementation of the Medi-Cal mobile crisis services benefit and the Recovery Incentives Program.

Corinne received a bachelor’s degree from UC Irvine and a doctorate from Southern California University of Health Sciences.

**Veronica Kelley**

Dr. Veronica Kelley was appointed Director of the OC Health Care Agency (HCA) on March 22, 2024. Prior to becoming Director, Dr. Kelley served as the Chief of the HCA’s Behavioral Health Services (BHS) division since December of 2021. She holds a doctorate and a master’s degree in social work. Since joining the HCA, she successfully reorganized BHS to help prepare Orange County for the myriad of behavioral health changes on the horizon. This includes preparation and advocacy for significant changes to Medi-Cal via CalAIM which allows for more services to be delivered to those in need. She collaborated with local law enforcement partners to divert mental health and homeless calls from 911, and successfully launched a new mobile crisis response. She led the early implementation of the State’s Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act initiative in Orange County, a civil process seeking to serve individuals with untreated schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders.

Additionally, Dr. Kelley has championed multiple efforts in the battle against opioid misuse, launching ongoing educational public townhalls, initiating strategic marketing campaigns to reach diverse families and communities, expanding the distribution of life-saving overdose reversal treatments (naloxone), and being the first county in the state to bring the latest, more potent reversal treatment, Kloxxado.

Dr. Kelley has more than 33 years' experience in the field of behavioral health and has been a licensed clinical social worker for nearly 25 years. Dr. Kelley began her career with the HCA in 1999, where she started the Office of Cultural Competency & Multiethnic Services and then transitioned to San Bernardino County, where she spent 13 years with the Department of Behavioral Health and was appointed the Behavioral Health Director for six years. During her tenure, she led the county's crisis response and recovery efforts to the 2015 Terrorist Attack.

Dr. Kelley remains active at the state level, addressing behavioral health issues as a Board Member of NAMI California and as a Past President of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association. She sits on the California Department of Health Care Services Stakeholder Advisory Committee as well as numerous positions on other statewide committees, including an appointment to the Governor's No Place Like Home Advisory Board.

In addition to her leadership roles, Dr. Kelley is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the Loma Linda School of Social Work and Social Ecology and a part-time lecturer at California State University Fullerton in the Social Work Department.

**Cherylynn Lee**

Dr. Cherylynn Lee is a Police Psychologist and a full-time employee of the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office overseeing the Behavioral Sciences Unit (BSU). The BSU houses four mental health co-responder teams, provides Crisis Intervention Training, engages in behavioral threat assessment and management (BTAM), and houses the departments wellness unit and peer support team. Dr. Lee serves on the crisis negotiation response teams for both the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office and the Santa Barbara Police Department and is a member of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP).

Dr. Lee is contracted with The Counseling Team International as both the Clinical Operations Director for the Tri-Counties and as a practitioner. She offers individual counseling and emergency response services across the state of California and has led dozens of critical incident stress debriefings for OIS, LODD and natural disasters for local and state agencies. Dr. Lee maintains a private practice in the Santa Ynez Valley where she exclusively works with first responders and specializes in trauma and post-traumatic stress injury.

**W2D 2024 – SPEAKER BIOS (continued)**

Dr. Lee is a subject-matter expert with CA Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST), teaches officer wellness in the basic academy and also is a volunteer instructor for the FBI-40 hour negotiators course Dr. Lee was named one of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) 40 under 40 award recipients for 2023 and is named Crisis Intervention Training International's (CIT) Behavioral Health Practitioner of the Year for 2024.

**Sheree Lowe**

Sheree Lowe has been a Vice President on CHA's policy team since 2003. In 2022 she began providing leadership in developing, communicating, and implementing CHA policy related to nursing, emergency services, trauma, and medication safety. Previously she managed the policy interests of Acute Psychiatric Hospitals (APH), behavioral health units in medical/surgical hospitals, and Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospitals (CDRH) providing both in and outpatient mental health and substance use disorder services - commonly referred to as behavioral health.

Sheree received her Bachelor's degree from California State University, Sacramento and her Master's degree from the University of San Francisco.

**Melissa Martin-Mollard**

Melissa Martin-Mollard, Chief of Research and Evaluation for the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, joined the Commission in 2022 to lead the research and evaluation team in its efforts to use data, dashboards, key metrics, and evaluation to support transparency and accountability of the public mental health system. Prior to her role with the Commission, she was Assistant Director at the CalEQRO where she worked on quality reviews of county specialty mental health and supported early implementation of the state's Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System. Prior to the CalEQRO, she directed quality improvement efforts for Seneca Family of Agencies, a children's behavioral health provider. Melissa has also taught in schools of social work for the last 20 years, most recently at San Francisco State. She recently joined the board of Options Recovery Services, a substance use treatment provider in Berkeley, CA. Melissa holds a PhD in Social Welfare, a MPH, and a MSW all from the University of California, Berkeley.

**W2D 2024 – SPEAKER BIOS (continued)****Lahela Mattox**

Lahela Mattox, Chief Operations Officer, Regional Task Force on Homelessness, has more than 20 years of experience in direct services, program development, and leadership in behavioral health, homelessness and housing, poverty programs, and workforce development in both California and Hawaii. Ms. Mattox is a respected leader, recognized for cultivating partnerships, leveraging resources, and deploying technical assistance to local jurisdictions in addressing the homelessness crisis.

**Katie McAlindon**

Katie McAlindon is a community researcher and communication designer dedicated to improving coordination and communication within and across the systems that address our most complex challenges. She has collaborated with researchers, practitioners, and community members to support evaluation, data dissemination, and implementation efforts, driving systems change on issues such as relationship violence and sexual misconduct, early childhood development, and patient-centered health communication. Katie earned her PhD in ecological/community psychology from Michigan State University and is a proud Midwestern transplant from Flint, MI.

**Tiana Moore**

Dr. Tiana Moore serves as Brilliant Corners' Deputy Chief Program Officer for Program Development. In her role, she oversees program evaluation, quality assurance, program policy, and client and staff engagement efforts. Prior to joining Brilliant Corners, she served as the Policy Director for the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, leading the organization's research-to-policy translation efforts. She has deep expertise in policies and programs related to housing and homelessness, and, notably, led public dissemination efforts for the California Statewide of People Experiencing Homelessness—the largest representative study of homelessness since the mid-1990s. Dr. Moore has also conducted research on the influence of housing instability on the well-being of children and families. Additionally, she has worked in higher education leading a broad portfolio of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs.

Dr. Moore earned her PhD in Developmental Psychology and MS in Applied Statistics from Columbia University. She is also a graduate of Stanford University, where she earned her BA in Human Biology and her MA in Sociology.

**W2D 2024 – SPEAKER BIOS (continued)****Kevin O'Connell**

Kevin O'Connell is a research consultant at O'Connell Research, where he uses a range of strategy, evaluation, and process improvement strategies to implement and support data-driven policy at the intersection of justice systems and behavioral health. He has worked on a range of county initiatives to inform policy and research on the impacts of major adult and juvenile justice policy changes as well as providing technical assistance and consulting to counties using cross-system data analysis to improve outcomes for justice-involved behavioral health clients, especially around creating alternatives pathways and programs. Kevin obtained a master's degree from UC San Diego in International Relations and Public Policy and a bachelor's degree from UC Davis in History and Political Science.

**Ryan Quist**

Ryan Quist, Ph.D., is the Behavioral Health Director in Sacramento County. His work in Behavioral Health started in Riverside County Behavioral Health where he worked in various roles dedicating more than 20 years to County Behavioral Health.

He remains very active in Statewide advocacy on Behavioral Health topics and was elected by other Behavioral Health Directors as President for the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) for 2023 and 2024. He co-chairs the CBHDA Medi-Cal Policy Committee. He was selected to participate in the CalAIM Behavioral Health Stakeholder workgroup and contributed to planning for the various Behavioral Health CalAIM initiatives now being implemented.

In Sacramento County, his focus is on mental health and substance use services for the homeless population, criminal justice population, and bolstering the crisis continuum of care to prevent psychiatric hospitalizations. For children's services, he is dedicated to promoting field-based and school-based services and collaborating to support the foster youth and probation populations.

**Kiran Sahota**

Kiran Sahota is the President and CEO of Concepts Forward Consulting. She has been working in the social services sector for nearly three decades. Her role as a social worker led to many opportunities within county and non-profit employment, such as creating independent living skills and housing for transitional-aged youth, training law enforcement in crisis intervention and de-escalation, and building mental health innovation and prevention programs within a large

**W2D 2024 – SPEAKER BIOS (continued)**

county mental health plan. In 2020, Ms. Sahota retired from county mental health as a Senior Behavioral Health Manager and co-chair of the Statewide Mental Health Services Act Coordinators Committee.

Since retiring, Ms. Sahota has been working as the President and CEO of *Concepts Forward Consulting*. Through her consulting business, she is working with multiple California counties on a statewide Innovations impact project to test digital Psychiatric Advance Directives. She was a Medi-Cal EQRO Reviewer, and she provides organizations with her strategic planning, outcomes, evaluation, and quality review expertise.

Throughout her career, Ms. Sahota has made significant contributions to community behavioral health programming. She has worked on quality impact improvement, program evaluation, and digital transformation with a global lens toward community service enhancement and systemic change. Her expertise includes innovative programming, digital transformation, CalAIM, Medi-Cal strategies, law enforcement training, mental health advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and suicide prevention efforts. Ms. Sahota holds a master's degree in Clinical and Community Psychology.

**Jessica Sodhi**

In her current role as 9-8-8 Executive Director, Public Safety Communications, with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), Dr. Jessica Sodhi is responsible for the policy and regulatory framework concerning the technology infrastructure, coordination and transfer of calls between 9-8-8, 9-1-1, and behavioral health crisis services. She also supports California's 9-1-1 and Emergency Communications systems. Dr. Sodhi holds a master's in engineering, MS, from Brown University, a Doctorate degree from the University of California, San Francisco, PharmD, and is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces.

**Jim Sorg**

Jim Sorg, PhD, is the Director of Care Integration at Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc. where he has several areas of focus including access to care, CalAIM Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports, Care Coordination and Recovery Services, CCBHC, information management, quality assurance, and efforts to further integrate medical and behavioral healthcare. Dr. Sorg worked as a consultant to behavioral health organizations for many years. He received his PhD from Ohio State University's School of Public Policy and Management.

**Tiffanie Synnott**

Tiffanie Synnott is the Deputy Director of Sacramento County’s Conflict Criminal Defenders (CCD). Prior to her role at CCD, Tiffanie was an attorney with the Sacramento County Public Defender’s Office for 22 years. At the Sacramento County Public Defender’s Office, Tiffanie developed and implemented a Felony Mental Health Diversion Program, Misdemeanor Mental Health Diversion Program, Incompetent to Stand Trial Mental Health Diversion Program, Juvenile Trauma Response Court, Pretrial Support Program, a Housing Engagement Legal Program, and a Record Modification Unit. Several of the programs Tiffanie developed and implemented were recognized and awarded at the state and national level. Tiffanie has also testified several times before the legislature as an expert in the intersection of mental health, criminal justice, and homelessness. Since leaving the Public Defender, Tiffanie continues to be committed to bridging gaps in our criminal justice system. In her new role at CCD, Tiffanie has created a Re-Entry Support Team, Pretrial Program, Felony Mental Health Diversion Program, IST Mental Health Diversion program, Collaborative Court Program, a Pro Per Redaction Unit, and a Post Conviction Unit. The programs Tiffanie has developed at CCD ensures that pro per defendants, privately retained defendants, and defendants represented by CCD all have equal access to services and programs in Sacramento County.

**Kit Wall**

Kit Wall is the Project Director for Words to Deeds. She is a creative and connected government affairs, public policy, and communications leader experienced in designing innovative, collaborative initiatives that bring together key decision-makers to advance public policy in California. Kit held senior government relations roles with Eli Lilly & Company focusing on local government, including jail diversion specialization across the U.S. In 2003, she initiated the Words to Deeds concept, which has developed into California’s renowned interdisciplinary leadership forum and standard best practice for fostering successful and ongoing collaboration across silos and diverse audiences at the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice.

Kit launched Kit Wall Productions in 1996, bringing her expertise in strategic communications, marketing, public policy, and political campaigns to diverse, multi-sector clients ranging from professional sports to entertainment to nonprofit organizations. For nearly 40 years, she has concentrated on government relations and public policy, managing coalition and grassroots efforts for corporate, nonprofit, and governmental organizations, as well as ballot initiatives and legislative and candidate campaigns.



**Stephanie Welch**

Stephanie Welch is the Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health for the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS). Stephanie has over two decades of experience in behavioral health policy, program administration, evaluation and advocacy at both the state and county level, working at organizations such as the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) and the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA). Stephanie holds an MSW from the University of Southern California and a BA in Sociology from the University of California, Davis



**Jevon Wilkes**

For nearly two decades, Jevon Wilkes, Executive Director, California Coalition for Youth, has been committed to improving and empowering the lives of California’s youth with a focus on addressing youth homelessness, disconnection, and instability. Today, Jevon serves as an appointed member of the California Child Welfare Council and an Advisory Member of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness Council, among other roles.