

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Attorney General Phil Weiser

took office in 2019, and led Colorado's effort to secure \$520 million in settlement funds that resulted from lawsuits against opioid manufacturers and distributors for their role in creating and fueling the opioid epidemic. He and his team have collaborated with local officials to create a framework for distributing these funds across our state. He has also led prosecutions of cartels that have pushed out dangerous and deadly fentanyl on our streets, often sold in the form of counterfeit prescription drugs that caused overdose deaths.

Under the leadership of Attorney General Weiser, the Department of Law has prioritized work on the opioid epidemic, including playing a leading role in opioid litigation, a nationwide action against McKinsey & Company for its role in turbocharging the epidemic, a settlement with the Sackler family and Purdue Pharma, and a multibillion-dollar settlement with Johnson & Johnson and the nation's three largest drug distribution companies. The funds will be used for substance use disorder treatment, recovery, prevention and education, harm reduction programs, and addressing the epidemic's impact on the criminal justice system.

WELCOME AND CLOSING REMARKS
MODERATING LAW ENFORCEMENT PANEL AND REGIONAL
COUNCIL PANEL AUG. 16



Heidi Williams

is a Colorado Native and grew up in Brighton, Colorado. Heidi and her husband Toby married in 2001 and have three children, Michael, Chloe and Noah. Heidi graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Political Science in 2017 and earned her master's in public administration from CU Denver in 2018. Heidi is the Director of Opioid Response for the Colorado Attorney General and is the former Mayor of Thornton. She is passionate about finding solutions for Coloradans who have been impacted by the opioid epidemic and feels honored to be in her current role.

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER, PREVENTION PANELS,
WELCOME ON AUG. 15, AND COST DEMONSTRATION

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Commissioner Andy Kerr

Like so many Coloradoans, Commissioner Kerr has done a little bit of everything as he began his career. He has worked as a snowboard instructor, waiter, bartender, and substitute teacher before getting a permanent job as a social studies teacher at Dunstan Middle School, where he taught for seven years. He then designed curriculum and trained teachers for the Jefferson County School District, and most recently, taught students from across Jefferson County and Colorado through the District's 21st Century Virtual Academy.

He joined the Colorado General Assembly in 2006 as a member of the House of Representatives, where he eventually rose to the position of Assistant Majority Leader. He was then elected to the State Senate, representing Senate District 22 until 2018.

Representing District 1, Kerr was elected in 2019 to serve the citizens of Jefferson County as a county commissioner. He served as Chair Pro Tem in 2020 and now holds the chairmanship for the Board.

He has been an effective champion for education, renewable energy, and the needs of working families in Jefferson County and across Colorado.

Kerr, along with his wife, and children, reside in Lakewood, Colorado.

ENCOURAGING REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

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Speaker Bios



Karen McNeil-Miller

Karen McNeil-Miller describes social and human impact as the center of her life's work. As the president and CEO of The Colorado Health Foundation, Karen helps guide the Foundation to determine the most impactful investment of human, financial and influence capital on behalf of the Coloradans who need it the most.

Karen joined the Foundation after serving for more than 10 years as the president of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, one of North Carolina's largest private foundations. Under her leadership, the Trust evolved into a strategic, impact-driven foundation with a national presence on issues ranging from rural health to access to care.

Karen lives each day knowing that good health impacts every element of our lives. A former special education teacher and head of the Piedmont School in North Carolina, Karen is active within the nonprofit community and national and regional philanthropic and rural health organizations. She serves as board chair for the Association of Black Foundation Executives, and is a board member of Campbell University, College Track and Denver Academy. At home, Karen cultivates a balanced, healthy life that includes her husband and two children, a minor shoe obsession and – on a beautiful Colorado day – a good book and a glass of wine outside on her deck.

INCORPORATING A DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION LENS



Jamie Feld, MPH

has 16 years of related professional experience, the last eight specifically focusing on addressing the opioid crisis in Colorado. She is an epidemiologist by training and has served at various governmental agencies such as the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Colorado Consortium for Prevention Drug Abuse Prevention. She has led efforts at international, national, state, and local levels in the public sector. She is currently the Deputy Director for the Opioid Response Unit at the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

SETTING THE STAGE: COLORADO DATA AND NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Kylie Yocum

is the drug epidemiologist at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, working with data related to fatal and nonfatal overdose for the overdose prevention team and other partners. Kylie studied epidemiology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and focused on statistical methods and environmental health. Kylie enjoys learning more about all facets of overdose prevention and harm reduction and strives to incorporate data equity into this work.

SETTING THE STAGE: COLORADO DATA AND NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES



Kristen Pendergrass, MSW

serves as the Vice President, State Policy at Shatterproof. Previously, she worked at the Pew Charitable Trusts leading state relations and strategy for the Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Initiative and for the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative helping state and local governments incorporate evidence-based policymaking into the budget and policy processes.

Before joining Pew in November 2015, Ms. Pendergrass worked as a policy advisor for the House Majority Caucus in the Oregon Legislature, chief of staff to the Oregon House Majority Whip, and as a legislative assistant in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Kristen holds a master's degree in social welfare policy from the Boston University School of Social Work and a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University.

SETTING THE STAGE: COLORADO DATA AND NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

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Dr. Morgan Medlock

Governor Polis appointed Dr. Morgan Medlock as the new Behavioral Health Commissioner for the State of Colorado, and a new member of the Governor's Cabinet. An emergency psychiatrist and addiction medicine specialist by training, she began her role on January 18, 2022.

Dr. Medlock is a 2022-2023 Milbank Memorial Fund Fellow, and was recently appointed to the NASMHPD Board of Directors, Western Division. In addition, Dr. Medlock previously served as the Chief Medical Officer and Director of Crisis and Emergency Services for the Washington, DC Department of Behavioral Health. She also served on the faculty of the Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Law, Brain, and Behavior and Howard University College of Medicine and has held a previous appointment as a Clinical Fellow in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Among her many leadership positions, Dr. Medlock served on the American Psychiatric Association's Council on Minority Mental Health and Health Disparities, including a term as Vice Chair from 2019-2020. She also participated in the District of Columbia Hospital Association's Opioid Taskforce, serving as Co-Chair from 2019-2020.

Dr. Medlock received her MPH from Harvard T.H. Chan School Of Public Health, her MD from the Mayo Clinic School Of Medicine, and her MDiv from Andrews University.

COMMITMENT TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PARTNERSHIP



Amy Cooper, MA

currently serves as the Associate Director of Adult Treatment and Recovery for Colorado's Behavioral Health Administration. In this role, she oversees a team focused on federal grants specific to substance use and mental health treatment for the adult population. Previously, Ms. Cooper worked as the State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) and as the state's Women's Services Coordinator. Ms. Cooper graduated with her Master's in Clinical Psychology, focusing on Addiction Studies, and is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Colorado.

BRAIDED FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY OVER 18 YEARS:
LEVERAGING STATE FUNDS

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



"Queen" Dedria Johnson

has been in recovery for abuse and substances for 9 years. Being born into an environment where substance and physical abuse lived inside families it was easy to engage in an 18 year very mental, emotional, spiritual, physical and financial abusive LESSON for Queen and her children.

I'm here to break our cycle.

Founder and C.E.O. of Larimer County's first Black and Black Women Led Non Profits and Black Owned DEI Consultant Firm, Dedria Johnson, who goes by and prefers her chosen name "Queen", is a 15 year resident of Larimer County, Fort Collins. Her lived experience with systems, the most prevalent being the school pipeline to prison system with her sons, has guided most Advisory Boards and Councils since COVID exacerbated racial inequities on all levels and in all of our systems in Larimer County.

Queen isn't just at the table, her passion for equity has produced several small processes in her city that gives room for peer community members to gather, learn and support their recovery efforts in Harm Reduction because it works well in the black community along with other culturally attuned services. QLF supports the members of its community by bringing the concern to all the "tables" holding persons responsible for supporting the black community in systems ACCOUNTABLE for what they bring to us in community. From school to prison pipeline to our physicians office and what recovery looks like from the things that cause most substance abuse like Racism. Even in recovery it seems as if the Black Community is looked over as opioid abuse is not as prevalent in our community. Recovery services are needed from the domestic violence we endure because our black husbands, boyfriends or fathers to our children can't get a break in society so black women are the closest thing they can release on. Physically, mentally, spiritually, financially and emotionally.

I sit at the table because recovery looks different in different communities so while 6 black bodies may have opioid abuse concerns, 6,000 are drinking and smoking marijuana which doesn't allow us to make the best decisions for our families just as any other substance that can be abused.

Queens Legacy Foundation will continue to bring knowledge and resources through Advocates For Recovery Colorado and collaboration with CO-SLAW in my community.

HUB AND SPOKE MODEL BEST PRACTICE

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Jenny Wallace, LCSW

began her behavioral health career with North Range Behavioral Health more than 15 years ago as an intern and has advanced from direct clinical care to various leadership roles in the organization. In her current role as Administrative Director, she supports the adult residential teams including Crisis Stabilization Services (Acute Treatment and Withdrawal Management), True North Residential Program, Wings Residential Program, and Recovery Support Services (including supported housing, case management, and the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness team). Jenny represents North Range on the NOCO CARES Steering Committee and CO-SLAW (Colorado Opioid Synergy for Larimer and Weld counties) and oversees the North Range Harm Reduction Work Group. Jenny earned her bachelor's degree from Saint Louis University where she double majored in Spanish and Communications. She holds a master's degree in Social Work from Illinois State University and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Colorado.

HUB AND SPOKE MODEL BEST PRACTICE

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

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MJ Jorgensen (they, them, theirs)

is the Manager of the Community Impact Team for the Health District of Northern Larimer County, a Leader in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Culture of Health Leaders program, an instructor in the School of Public Health, and Equity Professional with Engage Coaching and Consulting. In this work, they apply community organizing, program planning and change management strategies to make organizational and programmatic improvements across systems. MJ has their Masters in Public Health, is a Certified Health Education Specialist and has also completed the National Diversity Council's Certified Diversity Professional Program.

MJ's past and current work has been focused around using cross sector partnerships, community collaboration and harm reduction strategies to improve access, quality and equity for marginalized individuals and communities. MJ also works to improve internal and external organizational equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives through training, assessment, leadership development, mentorship and strategic planning. MJ's philosophy centers around community voice and individuals facing systemic oppression with the goal to end the perpetuation of inequity gaps in justice, health and wellbeing by building, restructuring or renovating existing systems to better meet the needs of the communities they aim to serve. MJ has developed strategic initiatives and best practices that work in various sectors including: Healthcare, education, criminal justice, and behavioral health and that work to improve partnership, offerings, structural inequities.

HUB AND SPOKE MODEL BEST PRACTICE



Heather Ihrig, RN, MSN, MBA

is a nurse of over 25-years. Having started her career in the Emergency Department she learned firsthand the 'people' science of addiction medicine and the inequities and needs of the system. After having spent years in progressive leadership within the hospital setting, to include oversight of surgical services, Heather moved into grant management and program director oversight with the North Colorado Health Alliance within the behavioral health and addiction medicine realm. Heather has helped to build and now leads the Addiction Response, CO-SLAW team, a one-of-a-kind virtual hub and spoke model of networked treatment clinics and behavioral health settings, hospitals, and jail-based partners with a hub of comprehensive regional care coordination and peer supports.

HUB AND SPOKE MODEL BEST PRACTICE

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Meredith Silverstein, PhD

has more than 20 years' experience in program evaluation with a focus on measurement of substance use treatment outcomes. As the Director of Behavioral Health Initiatives at the Butler Institute for Families, University of Denver, she partners with community treatment providers to secure funding for innovative treatment programs and supports their implementation and evaluation using the principles of participatory action research. Dr. Silverstein currently serves as lead evaluator on four behavioral health treatment projects funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) and two behavioral health workforce development projects funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Prior to joining the Butler Institute, she led the research and program evaluation department for one of Colorado's largest substance abuse treatment providers. In this role, Dr. Silverstein developed and implemented performance improvement and performance management systems across the organization's continuum of care.

Throughout her work she has focused on the translation of research and program evaluation findings into realistic, actionable, and measurable program improvements. She holds a B.A from Sarah Lawrence College, an M.S. in Health Management from The American University, and a PhD in Health and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Colorado.

HUB AND SPOKE MODEL BEST PRACTICE

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Speaker Bios



Lesley Brooks, MD

serves as the Chief of Addiction Medicine for SummitStone Health Partners and as the Assistant Medical Director for the North Colorado Health Alliance in northern Colorado. As the Chief of Addiction Medicine and BHS Medical Director/Interim Executive Director, Dr. Brooks leads SummitStone's partnership in the design, development and implementation of Larimer County's Behavioral Health Services facility, which is set to be open in 2023. Dr. Brooks, a board-certified family medicine and addiction medicine physician, practiced full scope family medicine including prenatal care, chronic pain, and substance use disorder/addiction in northern Colorado for 12+ years. Since her transition to SummitStone Health Partners in 2020, she specializes in substance use and mental health. Dr. Brooks earned her undergraduate degree from Kenyon College in Ohio and her medical degree from the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She completed residency at North Colorado Family Medicine in Greeley, Colorado. She and her husband live in Greeley with their 2 children.

HUB AND SPOKE MODEL BEST PRACTICE



Cyndi Dodds

has a great passion for behavioral health services. She is the Chief Clinical Officer at SummitStone Health Partners and previously served as the Executive Director for the Namaqua Center in Loveland. Her work has included more than two decades with behavioral health organizations in Northern Colorado. Cyndi is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Alliant University in San Diego and a Master of Science in Human Development and Family Studies from Colorado State University. Cyndi co-chairs the Northern Colorado Collaborative for Addiction Recovery Support (NOCO CARES).

HUB AND SPOKE MODEL BEST PRACTICE

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Speaker Bios



Dr. Robert J. Valuck

is a Professor in the Departments of Clinical Pharmacy, Epidemiology, and Family Medicine at the University of Colorado Schools of Pharmacy, Public Health, and Medicine at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. Dr. Valuck is Director of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, created by Governor Hickenlooper to address the prescription drug abuse problem with a collaborative, statewide approach. The Consortium has evolved over the past five years to include ten work groups, with over 600 members across the state, focusing on key areas relating to education, prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery. The Consortium has gained recognition as a model for the development of collaborative, coordinated responses to the opioid overdose epidemic in the United States.

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT IN JAILS & REENTRY, FENTANYL MYTHBUSTERS & EMERGING TRENDS



Sheriff KC Hume

is a lifelong resident of Craig and Moffat County and has been married to his lovely bride Errica for 25 amazing years. KC & Errica have two kiddos, a son (18) Kadin and a daughter (14) Kimber. KC has spent the majority of his adult professional life focusing on his primary passion, public safety and public service. With a 29-year Law Enforcement career, matched with a 22-year Fire Service career, KC is extremely humbled to currently serve the citizens of Moffat County as their Sheriff. KC retired from Craig Fire/Rescue in January of 2022, after serving his last 7 years as Fire Chief. When they aren't engaged with kiddos at sports, clubs and dance the family enjoys summertime whitewater rafting and camping. In their spare time (what little there is) KC and Errica also operate a professional audio/mobile DJ service. The duo of S~n~B Sound provide event planning, Emcee service, and full feature sound, lighting and music for events across the Yampa Valley and southern Wyoming.

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT IN JAILS & REENTRY

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Lieutenant Staci Shaffer

Staci Shaffer is a law enforcement professional with 27 years of experience and is currently a Lieutenant with the Larimer County Sheriff's Office in Fort Collins, Colorado. She is also an adjunct instructor in the Sociology Department at Colorado State University. In 2011, she was awarded the national designation of Certified Jail Manager by the Jail Management Certification Commission through the authority of the American Jail Association. She holds a Master of Criminal Justice Degree from the University of Colorado at Denver School of Public Affairs.

MEDICATED ASSISTED TREATMENT IN JAILS AND REENTRY

BH

Becky Huckaby, MA, LPC

graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and another in Psychology in 2007. She went on to also complete her Master's Degree in Clinical Counseling at the University of Northern Colorado in 2011. Becky started her work in jails and has had experience working with folks across the criminal justice system. She has worked in multiple jails throughout the state as an in-house therapist, a crisis clinician, as well as a case manager. Becky also has experience working with criminal justice involved individuals within community behavioral health. She specializes working with individuals with severe and persistent mental illness as well as personality disorders. Becky spent two years working in the Department of Corrections providing mental health treatment as well as sex offense specific treatment to adult males as well as males within the Youthful Offender System (YOS). Becky has been with the Behavioral Health Administration (formerly the Office of Behavioral Health) for the past 9 ½ years. The last three years have been working on the Jail Based Behavioral Health Services Program.

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT IN JAILS & REENTRY

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

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José Esquibel

Initially trained as a clinician with mentors from the fields of child and family psychiatry and psychology at the University of New Mexico, José worked as a certified addictions counselor and family therapist in outpatient and inpatient treatment settings for over a decade before entering state government service. From 2005 through 2011, he served as a co-director of two substance abuse prevention grants awarded to the Colorado Office of the Governor, one related to implementing screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment in medical settings. By appointment of the President of the Colorado Senate, José served from 2010-2019 as the vice chair of prevention for the Colorado Statewide Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force, a legislatively mandated task force chaired by the Colorado Attorney General. In 2015 he was appointed as the Director of Community Engagement in the Colorado Office of the Attorney General and then joined the staff of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse in 2019 to help coordinate the statewide response to the opioid crisis in Colorado.

MODERATION FOR RISK REDUCTION PANEL:
REACHING THOSE MOST IMPACTED



Sam Bourdon (she/her)

is a harm reductionist and public health professional based in Northern Colorado. Her professional harm reduction background began through direct service, providing sterile supplies, education, and advocacy for people who use drugs. Sam is currently the Harm Reduction Grant Fund Coordinator at CDPHE and supports six Colorado communities as they work to reduce the harms associated with substance use and diversion from the criminal legal system. She is passionate about advocating for the dignity, autonomy, and empowerment of people who use drugs.

RISK REDUCTION PANEL: REACHING THOSE MOST IMPACTED

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Maggie Seldeen

is the founder and director of High Rockies Harm Reduction, a rural nonprofit committed to reducing overdose deaths and other negative consequences of substance use and connecting individuals with evidence-based treatment in rural Colorado. Maggie was raised in Carbondale, Colorado, lost her mother to an overdose as a teenager and is a person in active and sustained recovery. She has a Bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from Colorado Mesa University and is a Certified Colorado Peer and Family Specialist. Maggie has trained hundreds of people all over the country on Narcan and the current overdose/fentanyl epidemic. She currently lives in Glenwood Springs and enjoys gardening, painting and playing rap songs on her banjo.

RISK REDUCTION: REACHING THOSE MOST IMPACTED

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Don Stader, MD, FACEP

is a board certified emergency and addiction medicine physician, opioid expert, film producer & social entrepreneur. Don works at Swedish Medical Center in Englewood, CO where he served as section chair of emergency medicine and associate ED medical director prior to focusing on medical consulting. Don holds a medical degree with honors from Baylor College of Medicine and attended emergency medicine residency at Carolinas Medical Center. He is the Medical Director of the Compass Opioid Stewardship Program, a nationwide initiative to improve pain control, prescribing habits, addiction treatment and opioid stewardship for primary care clinicians. Don is also the founder and chair of the Colorado Naloxone Project, one of the most ambitious national efforts to engage hospitals and clinicians in opioid overdose risk recognition, education and naloxone dispensing. As of March 2022, the project has engaged over 107 hospitals and distributed over 10,000 doses of naloxone.

Don is a recognized physician leader as is the Past President of the Colorado chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (COACEP) and former President of the Emergency Medicine Residents' Association (EMRA). He is the founder and past chair of Colorado ACEP's Opioid Task Force, the Editor-in-Chief of COACEP's 2017 Opioid Prescribing & Treatment Guidelines and the CO's CURE's guidelines on pain control and opioid stewardship. Don served for over 2 years as the Senior Pain Management & Opioid Policy Physician Adviser for the Colorado Hospital Association and serves on multiple national and local committees addressing the opioid epidemic in Colorado and across the nation, he is the current chair of ACEP's Pain & Addiction Management Section.

He is the founder and president of Stader Opioid Consulting, a company that provides opioid and ALTO related education, policy and quality improvement services to hospitals, government organizations and physician groups. He is a well known national lecturer on the opioid epidemic, emergency department pain control, opioid stewardship, treatment of chronic and acute pain, opioid use disorders, medication for addiction treatment and harm reduction.

He lives with his wife Andi and their three daughters Josiphine, Audrey & Morgan in Denver, Colorado.

RISK REDUCTION PANEL: REACHING THOSE MOST IMPACTED
TREATMENT PANEL: UNDERSTANDING THE FULL CONTINUUM

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Sophie Feffer

a lifelong resident of Colorado, has spent the past 5 years working to improve the lives of people who use drugs in Colorado. After graduating with a degree in Criminology from the University of Colorado, she joined the team at the Harm Reduction Action Center. Her time in direct service was spent providing outreach to the unhoused community in Denver and community engagement with businesses, legislators, law enforcement and other stakeholders. After joining CDPHE in January, Sophie has worked closely with entities across Colorado that work with or provide services for people who use drugs. Sophie provides technical assistance to community partners and shares her subject matter expertise with the goal of infectious disease prevention. For this panel, Sophie looks forward to sharing more about the services and partnerships CDPHE can offer to jurisdictions struggling with the overdose and fentanyl epidemic.

RISK REDUCTION PANEL: REACHING THOSE MOST IMPACTED



Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton

is a first-term La Plata County Commissioner. She lives in Durango and grew up on a cattle ranch and farm in Lewis, Colorado north of Cortez. Her family has been in the region for four generations. Marsha comes to this position having been a professional facilitator owning her own consulting business for 20 years. Her services extended to public entities, governments, community coalitions and nonprofits. Through her work, she led meetings and complex stakeholder processes to resolve conflict, set strategic direction and address a wide range of public issues.

Marsha serves on the five-county SWORD (SouthWEST Opioid Response District) as Treasurer. She is on the boards of San Juan Basin Public Health, Regional Housing Alliance and is the County's representative to the Wildfire and Watershed Advisory Committee, the Colorado State University local Advisory Committee, Animas River Community Forum and she serves as an Ex Officio member of the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs.

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER: ADVISORY MEMBERS AND AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS ON REGIONAL COUNCILS

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

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Marcy Campbell (she/her)

is currently the Behavioral Health System Project Manager for Boulder County, working to create a Behavioral Health Roadmap for the County and support the local Opioid Litigation Settlement process. She brings expertise in community engagement and passion for centering community in the process and solutions to this work. Marcy possesses a wealth of skills and experiences in youth development, policy and systems change, behavioral health, prevention, presenting data to diverse audiences, and advancing equity.

Most recently, she served as the Special Initiatives Coordinator for Boulder County Public Health leading the Community Mental Health Initiative in a process to engage community and diverse stakeholders to improve mental health. Additionally, in this role she led projects to provide staff mental health supports during COVID, support change management and staff retention, and serve as an interim Co-Lead for the Health Equity Coordinating Committee. Previously, she served as the Communities That Care (CTC) Facilitator for Lafayette where she empowered a community coalition of stakeholders to collect and use community-specific data on risk and protective factors to develop local solutions that address the community's needs.

Marcy has over 15 years' experience providing direct service to youth and young adults, including support for pregnant and parenting teens and leadership and career development for underserved youth. Led by her commitment to young people and equity, Marcy utilizes her expertise to establish community coalitions around common causes. Marcy is born and raised in Colorado, enjoys hiking and kayaking, and is often joined by a cat companion during work.

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER: INCORPORATING THE VOICE OF ADVISORY MEMBERS AND AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS ON REGIONAL COUNCILS

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Jarid Rollins, LCSW

has been in the Roaring Fork Valley for 10 years after receiving a masters in multicultural clinical social work from Augsburg College in Minneapolis, MN. As a therapist he has practiced in many settings from jails to elementary schools letting curiosity lead the way to learning the best practices for each setting. This curiosity has lead Jarid into being trained in trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy, EMDR and working with individuals wrestling with substance use. Jarid believes in a community approach to care and has started numerous projects at Midvalley Family Practice from a food pantry to the Community Opioid Treatment Strategy. Jarid enjoys running around the Roaring Fork Valley and interestingly or not-so-interestingly is an avid birder.

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER: ADVISORY MEMBERS AND AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS ON REGIONAL COUNCILS



Commissioner Steve O'Dorisio

brings a wealth of information to his role in Adams County. He uses his experience in construction, his law degree from Denver Sturm College of Law, and private sector global management experience to guide issues in social justice, equity, and neighborhood prosperity.

Commissioner O'Dorisio formerly served the people of Adams County as a Deputy District Attorney for the 17th Judicial District of Colorado where he prosecuted a variety of crimes and sought justice by balancing the interests of the victim, the community, and the defendant. He continuously strives to make sure vulnerable residents have opportunities and everyone has a voice.

When he is not bolstering regional connectivity, Commissioner O'Dorisio can be found innovating new strategies to retrofit historic neighborhoods with sidewalks and safe routes to school or guiding the successful adoption of policies to mitigate the impacts of growth and new development.

As a former agent of justice, Commissioner O'Dorisio is a compassionate servant of equity in social justice issues. He has a passion for proactive code compliance that partners with neighborhoods and he works to ensure the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council meets the needs of our residents.

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER: ADVISORY MEMBERS AND AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS ON REGIONAL COUNCILS

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Commissioner George Marlin

is a County Commissioner from Clear Creek County serving as the vice chair of the Gateway to the Rockies Opioid Council (GROC). Born and raised in Idaho Springs during a rough period for the community, George has a lot of experience with friends and family who experienced Substance Use Disorder with outcomes ranging from death and long-term incarceration to long term recovery. The most notable of those experiences is with his Father, whom George and a sibling helped through heroin withdrawals when he was nineteen years old.

George has brought this experience to the GROC, where he has advocated alongside others with lived experience to seek out and elevate the voices of people directly impacted by the opioid epidemic. People with lived experience can dramatically alter the conversation by bringing poignancy, empathy and hope to the work. The specific critiques of well-intentioned programs by those who have experienced them is crucial to understanding how to design systems that work for the people who need them. This inclusion in the work of the GROC has opened the door to a deeper understanding of the problems we face and the solutions we need to seek.

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER: INCORPORATING THE VOICE OF ADVISORY MEMBERS AND AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS ON REGIONAL COUNCILS

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Jessie Garcia

A Senior Recovery State Math teacher at GOAL High School, Garcia has been with GOAL High School for 6 years. Born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado, Jessie left home in ambitious pursuit of an athletic career with a soccer scholarship to Manhattan College in Bronx, New York. After college, he traveled worldly playing collegiate level Gaelic football and soccer. After receiving a B.S. in mathematics, with an emphasis in secondary education, Jessie began teaching and has done so for 14 years. Garcia's secondary mathematics teaching experience ranges from private, public, charter, and blended-online teaching in various locations including NYC, Colorado, and China. A passionate educator and athlete, his hobbies include biking, rafting, dancing, home improvement projects, and spending time with family and friends.

Garcia is currently serving on the Opioid Crisis Recovery Funds Advisory Committee for the state of Colorado, serves as Board President for the Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association in PuebloColorado, and coaches Pueblo local youth soccer.

CLOSING REMARKS MONDAY, AUG. 15

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

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Commissioner Wendy Buxton-Andrade

has been a Prowers County Commissioner since 2012 and is currently serving her third term in office. As a commissioner, she has been active in the Public Health and Human Services field. Wendy has served 4 years as the Chair of Health and Human Services for Colorado Counties, Inc. Prior to serving as Chair, Wendy served as Vice Chair of that same committee for 4 years. She has also served on the Hotline Steering Committee, Child Welfare Leadership Executive Committee, Child Welfare Allocations Committee, Colorado Works Allocation Committee, IV-E Waiver Oversight Committee, Prowers County Child Protection Team, State Attorney General's Substance Abuse Taskforce, the Opioid Crisis Recovery Funds Advisory Committee, RESADA Board and Chair as well as Southeastern Colorado Economic Development Board Chair and is the Chair of the Region 19 Opioid Settlement Board.

Prior to returning to Southeast Colorado in 2009, Wendy lived and worked in the Denver Metro area for about 20 years. Wendy's previous professional experience includes management for several large companies.

During Wendy's tenure as County Commissioners, she has written and secured three large state contracts for Prowers County. These include the statewide child protection hotline, the Consolidated Returned Mail Center and the new Overflow Processing Center. These contracts were awarded by the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

INCORPORATING A RURAL / FRONTIER FOCUS

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



John Feeney-Coyle

John Feeney-Coyle is a Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Section of the Colorado Attorney General's Office. He is a Colorado native and received his B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts before returning to Colorado to receive his law degree from the University of Denver. John has spent the past 4-5 years working on the investigation and prosecution of pharmaceutical companies for causing the opioid crisis in Colorado, including the negotiation of the recent settlements with Johnson & Johnson and the Three Distributors, as well as Colorado's investigation and prosecution of Purdue Pharma and the Sackler Family. John also worked directly with local governments on crafting the Colorado Opioid MOU for the distribution of opioid settlement proceeds.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Kent MacLennan

is the founding executive director of Rise Above Colorado, a statewide drug prevention nonprofit that empowers teens to make healthy connections, decisions, and change. Rise Above Colorado was launched by the founders of the Colorado Meth Project in 2014 with a focus on preventing drug misuse and addiction by giving youth the knowledge and skills to realize their full potential.

Kent has more than 25 years of progressive leadership experience in the nonprofit sector, including Young Americans Center for Financial Education, the University of Denver, Wilfrid Laurier University and Up With People. He also has direct experience working with the teenage demographic, having taught social studies for two years at Pomona High School in Arvada, Colorado.

Kent holds a bachelor of science in foreign service from Georgetown University and a master of education from the University of Denver. He lives in Broomfield, Colorado with his wife and three children who provide an in-home adolescent learning lab.

PREVENTION PANEL: MOVING UPSTREAM

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Tami Clark, MPH

is the Prevention Collaboration and Policy Specialist with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment within the Violence and Injury-Mental Health Promotion (VIP-MHP) Branch. She serves as the senior authority for cross agency and external partnership and provides subject matter expertise regarding policy related to the delivery of prevention services across multiple state agencies. She leads the implementation of Colorado's Statewide Strategic Plan for Primary Prevention of Substance Misuse through facilitation of Colorado's Statewide Prevention Collaboration. Tami has nearly 20 years of experience in behavioral health and primary prevention where she has led, supported, and provided technical assistance to systems change initiatives at the local, state and federal level. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management, and is a Certified Prevention Specialist II through the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC).

PREVENTION PANEL: "MOVING UPSTREAM"



Dr. Nathaniel R. Riggs

is the executive director of the Prevention Research Center and a professor of Human Development and Family Studies at Colorado State University. Dr. Riggs' basic research focuses on the development of executive function; the set of neuro-cognitive skills, mediated by the prefrontal cortex of the brain, that encompass self-regulated problem-solving and healthy decision-making. Dr. Riggs' research has demonstrated that disruptions in the development of executive function can be an important contributor to patterns of childhood and adolescent aggressive and depressive symptomatology, substance use, risky sexual behavior, and obesity.

Dr. Riggs then translates this research into developmentally-timed preventive interventions for young people. Dr. Riggs is the principal investigator for several large-scale federally funded research projects testing preventive interventions for adolescent and college student substance use, implementation projects that support Colorado communities in the adoption of evidence-based opioid prevention programs, and State contracts that provide Colorado communities with technical assistance on best practices for implementing preventive interventions in schools and other community contexts.

PREVENTION PANEL: MOVING UPSTREAM

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Charlotte Whitney, BA (she/they)

is passionate about improving health and facilitating behavior change through strategic communication, community engagement, program development, and policy advocacy. Charlotte is the Deputy Communications Director for Colorado's Behavioral Health Administration, leading campaign strategy for all awareness and behavior change campaigns, including Lift The Label. Charlotte received her Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado, Denver and B.A. in Collaborative Health and Human Services from California State University, Monterey Bay.

LIFT THE LABEL: COLORADO'S STIGMA REDUCTION CAMPAIGN



Commissioner Lori Laske

is serving her first term as Alamosa County Commissioner. Lori retired in 2020 from a 30 year career at Adams State University, as Executive Director of Alumni and Donor Relations. Lori has a Bachelor degree in business and Masters degree in Education, is a small business owner and rancher. Lori has been appointed to the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council, Region 18 Opioid Settlement Governance Committee chair and Colorado Child Fatality Prevention Review Team. Lori also serves in many leadership positions on committees/councils in the local, state and national level. Lori is a lifelong resident of Alamosa county and enjoys living in rural Colorado spending time with her husband, four kids, one grandson, two dogs and 36 horses.

Lori comes from a unique perspective having had a family member that struggled with addiction and realizes that addiction has impacted many areas of county services, including Human Services, Sheriff's Office, Public Health, Human Resources, etc. Lori brings an emphasis of concern for addiction in rural areas and the struggle for resources to help in recovery.

REGIONAL COUNCIL PANEL

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper's

career has focused on what she loves most – helping people, solving complex problems, and giving back to our community. Her 30 years of experience includes having served as a senior-level executive in the private and nonprofit sectors with a focus on K-12 education. As the former CEO of a national award-winning communications firm, Lesley worked with clients to enhance student and teacher success. Her career began as a journalist for Colorado Public Radio where she also contributed stories to NPR, The Osgood File, and the BBC.

Lesley was elected as a Jefferson County Commissioner in 2018 and serves on more than a dozen national and local boards on topics as diverse as the opioid epidemic, wildfire, economic development, public lands, water quality, and early childhood education. She served as the chair of the Jeffco Board of County Commissioners during the pandemic and now chairs both the Gateway to the Rockies Regional Opioid Council and Jeffco Wildfire Commission. Lesley also is a co-chair of the Jeffco Bright Futures Initiative, which focuses on early childhood education, and she's one of two county commissioners appointed by Governor Polis to serve on the Colorado Fire Commission.

Originally from Chicago, Lesley moved to Denver in 1989 to work as a reporter for Colorado Public Radio after earning her master's degree in journalism from University of Illinois-Springfield. Lesley and her family have called Jefferson County home for 27 years.

REGIONAL COUNCIL PANEL

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Bob McDonald

is the Executive Director of the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE), Denver's nationally accredited local public health department. In this role, Mr. McDonald also serves as the public health administrator for the city.

A long-time veteran of the City & County of Denver, Mr. McDonald was appointed director of Denver's charter-established public health department in 2016 after serving as Interim Executive Director since July of 2015, in addition to serving as Interim Executive Director in 2011. He brings close to 30 years of public health experience in leadership roles at the City & County of Denver, including serving as Deputy Director of DDPHE, Director of the Public Health Investigations, and Interim Director of Animal Protection.

Among his many achievements, Mr. McDonald has played a key role in setting the city's public health priorities and policies, and in leading efforts to identify efficiencies and restructure the department to align with the city's goals. This includes identifying new revenue streams, his involvement in the department's strategic planning and public health accreditation efforts, and spearheading revisions to many of the public health codes that are within the purview of the department.

Mr. McDonald completed his bachelor's coursework in Environmental Resource Management from Colorado State University and has completed master's level coursework in Local Government Management.

REGIONAL COUNCIL PANEL

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Dr. Ryan Jackman

is a graduate of The Medical College of Wisconsin. He completed his family medicine residency at St. Mary's Medical Center in Grand Junction. He then completed his fellowship in addiction medicine at the University of Colorado in Denver. His special interests in graduate medical education and increasing access to medical care in rural locations resulted in him receiving training awards from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in 2016 and the Colorado Health Foundation and Denver Foundation in 2017 to implement tele-addiction medicine in Western Colorado. He currently acts as the Medical Director of St. Mary's Integrated Addiction Medicine Clinic, as well as a faculty physician at St. Mary's Family Medicine Residency. Dr. Jackman is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and the American Board of Preventative Medicine in Addiction Medicine. He is licensed by the Colorado Medical Board. Dr. Jackman is the project director for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funded Rural Communities Opioid Response Program in Mesa and surrounding counties.

REGIONAL COUNCIL PANEL, TREATMENT PANEL: UNDERSTANDING THE FULL CONTINUUM



Josh Blum, MD

is a board-certified internist and addiction medicine physician at Denver Health and Hospital Authority in Denver, CO, where he serves as the director of outpatient substance use disorder treatment. As an institutional quality officer, he leads initiatives on pain and opioid management and chairs Denver Health's pharmacy and therapeutics committee. He is the immediate past president of the Colorado chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, and co-chair of the Provider Education Workgroup at the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention. He also serves on the boards of the Colorado Pain Society and the Harm Reduction Action Center. Dr. Blum attended Dartmouth College and the University of Southern California School of Medicine before completing his internal medicine residency at the University of Colorado.

TREATMENT PANEL: UNDERSTANDING THE FULL CONTINUUM

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Summer Gathercole (she, her, hers)

is passionate about Behavioral Health and the opportunity to engage the larger community to improve the system in Colorado. She brings an array of experiences and expertise that not only inform her ability to examine issues from a variety of perspectives but equip her to listen actively and attentively to the viewpoint of other stakeholders. Her years of experience spearheading philanthropic ventures have provided the tools and insights to effectively evaluate the current funding streams to examine and understand how the system can be more efficient and impactful. Facilitating last year's Steering Committee that recommended improvements to Colorado's crisis system increased the depth of her understanding of the complexities of the behavioral health system and the breadth of its stakeholders. She served as the first Project Manager for the Colorado Health Access Fund, which increases access to behavioral health care across the state.

Summer has worked in direct service as well as at the systems levels. She has a long history in workforce development and started out by providing training to individuals experiencing homelessness and economic insecurity to help prepare them for a job or career. She also established a regional collaboration of workforce development agencies and served as the Secretary of Labor for Washington, D.C. Upon moving to Colorado, she was engaged by the Colorado Workforce Development Council as well as a number of the workforce areas (57 of Colorado's 64 counties) to offer workforce expertise. This wealth of knowledge and experience positions her well to integrate the input and expertise of individuals in care, providers and policy makers from across the state.

When Summer is not out and about saving the world, you can find her on the backpacking trails or off on an active adventure - hiking among polar bears or rafting down the Nile.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Sheriff Jaime FitzSimons

was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1990 and served the City of Los Angeles until 2005 when he moved with his family to Summit County and joined the Summit County Sheriff's Office. Since 2016, he has served as the elected Sheriff of Summit County.

Jaime is a strategic and forward-thinking experienced law enforcement professional with a strong leadership presence and excellent interpersonal skills. He directs the work of more than 100 law enforcement and civilian employees in their duties to serve the residents and visitors of Summit County, Colorado.

Jaime is uniquely accessible and a visible member of the community. He works collaboratively to meet residents' high expectations in a vibrant urban environment that is growing, supportive, and increasingly multi-cultural and diverse.

Central to Jaime's personality is his love of community, whether it is local residents, business owners and ranchers, visitors, or people experiencing homelessness, behavioral health crises, substance use disorders, or a passing stranger. Every individual has value to Jaime and accordingly he and his organization treat every individual with kindness, dignity, and respect. He has proven to be resilient in the face of extraordinary challenges.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DIVERSION



District Attorney Christian Champagne

has been the District Attorney for Colorado's 6th Judicial District in Durango, Colorado since January 2017. Prior to that, Christian was the Assistant District Attorney for the 6th Judicial District for 8 years and a Deputy Public Defender for 4 years. Christian's focus as District Attorney has been to build innovative programs that reduce recidivism, focusing on Diversion and Restorative Justice, while at the same time ensuring accountability for offenders and honoring the victims of crime. He is currently the Past President of the Colorado District Attorney's Council, and an active member of his local Elks Lodge. He is originally from Evanston, Illinois, and has a wife and two children, aged 14 and 12.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DIVERSION PANEL

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



District Attorney Brian Mason

Brian Mason is the elected District Attorney for Colorado's 17th Judicial District, which serves Adams and Broomfield Counties. He was sworn in on January 12, 2021.

Brian was born in a military hospital in Germany, where his parents were stationed in the United States Air Force. They returned to Colorado when he was two years old and he grew up in Aurora with his twin brother. Later on, his family moved across town to Littleton, where he graduated from Heritage High School. Brian attended Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, and earned a degree in political science. After college, he moved to Washington, DC, where he served as an aide in the White House during the last three years of the Clinton Administration.

Following his service in the White House, Brian worked on Capitol Hill as a senior aide to a high-ranking member of Congress. Brian then received a prestigious fellowship from the Robert Bosch Foundation to work as an American Fellow in the German Foreign Ministry and the German Parliament in Berlin, Germany. Brian attended the University of Colorado Law School, where he earned his law degree and served as a campus leader. In 2006, then-District Attorney Don Quick recruited Brian to join the District Attorney's Office and he has worked here ever since. Brian has personally prosecuted thousands of cases, including over 100 jury trials, and has helped bring justice to victims of crime from all over our community. Brian's top priorities as District Attorney are keeping the community safe and making the criminal justice system better. He loves Adams and Broomfield Counties and he is honored to serve this incredible community.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DIVERSION PANEL

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Police Chief Terrence Gordon

is the chief of police in Thornton, CO, in the rapidly growing Denver Metropolitan Area. Prior to leading the Thornton Police Department, he served for over 25 years in Milwaukee, WI, retiring as assistant chief. In his career, Chief Gordon has had significant leadership roles in all aspects of policing, including patrol, investigations, training, and administration. He is currently a leadership training consultant and conference presenter, having trained leaders in 11 states, the District of Columbia, Europe, and Canada. Chief Gordon is an executive board member of Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) and the state's Commission on Improving First Responder Interactions with Disabled Persons. He is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police and is committed to continuously improving the police profession through training and focusing the tremendous dedication of the people serving their communities nationwide. He has a bachelor's degree in business and public administration, a master's degree in criminal justice, and is completing a Ph.D. in Business Psychology. Chief Gordon has been married for 31 years and is the very proud father of two daughters.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DIVERSION

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



District Attorney Alexis King

was born and raised on the west side of Colorado Springs. Alexis earned her B.A. at Hollins University in Virginia and returned home to Colorado to work on behalf of survivors of intimate partner violence at a community non-profit.

Her experience drove her to attend law school and in 2006, she graduated from the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver and then clerked for the Honorable William Robbins in Denver District Court.

In 2007 she joined the First Judicial District Attorney's Office as a Deputy District Attorney where she served for ten years, spending half of her career focused on how we serve children in the community, whether they be survivors of violence or charged with offenses.

Ultimately, she led the First Judicial District Attorney's Office's Human Trafficking Unit and was appointed by Governor John Hickenlooper to Colorado's Human Trafficking Council, shaping policy for the community and Colorado.

Thereafter, Alexis became a Magistrate Judge in Denver where she presided over alternative courts as well as Denver's first effort to reduce the incarceration of people struggling with addiction, mental health, and poverty.

Before taking office, Alexis returned to her non-profit roots at the Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center as a Title IX and Victim Rights Attorney, where she advocated on behalf of students facing gender-based violence and survivors in the criminal courts. Alexis is the first woman elected to serve as District Attorney in the First Judicial District.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND DIVERSION PANEL

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Charles H. Smith, PhD, MA

is the Regional Administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Region VIII. Dr. Smith is the former Director of the Colorado Division of Behavioral Health and Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse for the State of Colorado. He is a Licensed Psychologist with over 30 years of experience in fields of forensic psychology, addiction psychology, crisis intervention, integrated care and behavioral health policy and administration. Dr. Smith holds a PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Denver, a MA in Rehabilitation Counseling from New York University, and a BS in Psychology from Allegheny College.

LEVERAGING FEDERAL FUNDS AND RESOURCES



Rourke Weaver

is the current Director of Aftercare, overseeing Sober Living/IOP programs and managing the relationships between Recovery and Clinical staff. Rourke has extensive experience in leadership and management and has spent the past 12 years working in Recovery support Services and Treatment with The Phoenix, Red Rock Recovery Center and Spero Recovery Center allowing him to draw from his deep passion for working with those in or seeking recovery. Rourke truly enjoys the process of building a strong community by creating meaningful experiences and honest connections that allows for the bridge from active addiction to long-term recovery. Beyond what he currently does Rourke is an advocate for Treatment, Recovery and Recovery Support Services where he has, and continues to, engage in the discussion around substance use disorder (SUD), crafting legislation and organizing stakeholders to fight for better regulation, understanding and funding for both Treatment and Recovery. Rourke was the Co-Chair of the Recover Ready Colorado work group, Former President (current board member) and co-founder of Colorado Association of Recovery Residences (CARR).

RECOVERY PANEL: NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Racquel Garcia

is a Certified Addiction Counselor, Interventionist, Recovery Coach, expert trainer, presenter and entrepreneur. She founded HardBeauty in 2019 with the mission of empowering people to rise and thrive beyond their circumstances through a trauma-informed healing-centered approach. HardBeauty stands alongside youth and adults in recovery from substance misuse, abuse, mental health, homelessness, poverty and trauma. The HardBeauty Foundation cultivates connection and creates community through partnerships, grants and fundraising.

At the root of all of her work, Racquel believes that building community and exploring all pathways are the basis of thriving in a life of recovery. HardBeauty offers online workshops, classes, all recovery meetings and more. Their brick-and-mortar community space in Castle Rock services members of the community, friends and family.

Racquel was appointed to the Behavioral Health Administration Advisory Council (BHAAC) and works as a trainer and facilitator at C4 Innovations, a national organization which provides services to the Opiate Response Network, SAMSHA, State of New York, Yale, Harvard and more.

In her spare time, she LOVES being with her husband of 25 years, Chris. 4 Children, Jordan, Mackenzie, Jayden, Jesse and her bonus children Sabryna, Shea and Sebastian. She also loves her quiet Colorado Mountain home and small-town living.

RECOVERY PANEL: "NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"



Kyle Rogers

is a Peer Recovery Navigator working within the Re-Entry program at Homeward Alliance in Fort Collins, CO. Working as a Peer Navigator for the past year, Kyle received his training from the Colorado Mental Health Network (CMHN).

"Using lived experience to assist others in their journey through recovery"

RECOVERY PANEL: NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference 2022

Speaker Bios



Steve Strong

is the current Program Director for The Other Side Academy (TOSA) a long term training school in which students learn pro-social, vocational and life skills allowing them to emerge with a healthy life on "the other side." This program is available as an alternative to those facing incarceration as well as those seeking a change from the life they've chosen in the past. Many of those who seek entrance into the Academy are convicts, substance abusers or homeless. This school accepts men and women both pre-and-post sentencing, who are ready to learn a new and better way to live.

Steve draws his experience from his past struggles with addiction, repeat incarceration and homelessness. "My sole purpose at TOSA is to give others the hope and courage to find themselves again and break the cycle."

RECOVERY PANEL: NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US



Mila Long

is a Certified Addiction Counselor and Addiction Specialist, a Peer Recovery Coach, Registered Psychotherapist, CRAFT facilitator for families, Acupuncture-Detox specialist and Reiki Practitioner. Mila is in recovery from Opioid Use Disorder, and has been working in the field of substance abuse treatment for over 5 years now. Currently working with a 50 client caseload, Mila has dedicated much of her day to day life to helping people with substance use disorder and advocating for people in recovery.

Credentials: CAS/CACIII, Peer Recovery Coach, Registered Psychotherapist, CRAFT facilitator for families, Acupuncture-Detox Specialist, Reiki Practitioner.

Professional positions (current): Counselor with Denver Recovery Group, Facilitator of CRAFT Classes with Reach out for Change, Peer Recovery Coach with Youth in Recovery, Counselor with Recovery Quest Counseling (private practice).

RECOVERY PANEL: NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US