

# Shared Learnings in ACEs, Trauma, and Trauma Informed Approaches from Norway and Illinois

Friday, April 6, 2018 / 8:30am – 2:45pm  
HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health – Region 5  
233 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60601  
Floor 13 Conference Room

The Illinois  
ACEs Response  
Collaborative

Health & Medicine  
POLICY RESEARCH GROUP

U.S. Department of  
Health and Human  
Services, Office of the  
Assistant Secretary for  
Health – Region 5

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## PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

### Opening Remarks

**Douglas O'Brien**, *Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – Region V*  
Douglas O'Brien was appointed by the White House in November 2017 to serve as Regional Director of the US Department of Health and Human Services for Region V. As a Presidential Appointee, Mr. O'Brien provides executive leadership as the primary representative for the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The office of the Regional Director is also tasked with intergovernmental and external affairs bringing together federal, state, local and tribal government organizations, along with other external partners. In his role, Mr. O'Brien is responsible for the six Midwestern states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, as well as 34 federally recognized tribes; making Region 5 the largest of ten regions in terms of population. This is Mr. O'Brien's second term as Regional Director, having previously served from 2005-2007.

A Chicago-area native, Mr. O'Brien has a long record of experience in public service and the private sector. He started his career in state government as an aide to the Illinois General Assembly and an administrator in the Illinois Department of Central Management Services and the Department of Revenue.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Mr. O'Brien lives in suburban Chicago with his wife, Kate, a corporate attorney and member of the Illinois State Board of Elections and their twins, Patrick and Madeline. (<https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/iea/regional-offices/region-5>)

**CAPT Anna Gonzales, MPH**, *Acting Regional Health Administrator, HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health – Region 5*

CAPT Anna Gonzales is the acting Regional Health Administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), Region 5. She provides strategic direction, oversight, and operational support to the regional office, and serves as the senior federal public health official and scientist for the second largest region in the Country. CAPT Gonzales and her team address HHS priorities and state issues of greatest importance with a focus on prevention and public health action through multi-level collaborations and regional expertise. Region 5 represents diverse communities residing in the Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Prior to joining OASH, CAPT Gonzales was the lead Federal Official in Region 5 for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) and oversaw multiple

interdisciplinary service and grant programs focused on health workforce development, including the National Health Service Corp. The Region 5 HRSA/BHW office served as the direct conduit to health workforce programs for over 5,500 healthcare organizations, and more than 1,300 primary-care medical, dental and behavioral health clinicians.

CAPT Gonzales received her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Hawaii, with a focus on international health and public health administration and policy. (<https://www.hhs.gov/ash/about-ash/leadership/anna-gonzales>)

**Michelle D. Hoersch, MS, HHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health – Region 5**

Michelle Hoersch is a Public Health Advisor for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Region 5 and has been with the Department since 1996, most of that time in the Office on Women’s Health. Michelle has a Master of Science degree in Health Law and Administration from DePaul University in Chicago.

Michelle works to cultivate policies, programs and activities to improve the health of women across the lifespan with particular emphasis on disadvantaged and underrepresented groups of women and girls. Her work focuses on increasing health equity through trauma-informed, gender-responsive approaches. She has a particular emphasis on addressing the impact of trauma on women and girls and working with providers and systems to adopt trauma-informed practices. She is the driving force in creating an online training curriculum on trauma-informed approaches to care for physicians and other healthcare professionals, and has authored multiple publications on trauma and trauma-informed care. Michelle is an active member of collaboratives at both the national and local level working to advance trauma-informed principles and approaches in policy, program, practice, and culture. She is seasoned presenter and an ACE Interface master trainer. Michelle is a strong supporter of interns to foster the development of emerging public health professionals interested in trauma-informed approaches, women's health and social justice.

**Margie Schaps, MPH, Executive Director**

Margie has been Health & Medicine Policy Research Group’s Executive Director since 1993. Prior to taking the position, she was a Health & Medicine board member and served as the organization’s vice president. While maintaining overall responsibility of all of Health & Medicine’s activities, her specific policy expertise is in public health systems development and women’s health.

Prior to joining Health & Medicine, Margie, who holds a Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of Illinois and a Bachelors Degree from Washington University in St. Louis, served for eight years as the Director of the Women’s Health Resource Center at Illinois Masonic Medical Center, the nation’s first hospital-based comprehensive primary care center for women. She is passionate about creating a just health system that will improve the health of the public; speaks nationally and locally on a variety of health systems issues, and has published articles on women’s health issues, health care safety net issues, health system reform, and public health policies.

Margie teaches Public Health Policy and Advocacy at Northwestern University’s School of Public Health. She currently sits on several boards and committees including the Advisory Committee to the Northwestern University School of Public Health, the Policy committee of the Illinois Public Health Association, the Illinois Budgeting for Results Commission, and the Advisory Committee to the Chicago Department of Public Health’s Managed Care Program.

**Dr. Julie Morita, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health**

Dr. Julie Morita was appointed as commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) in early 2015. Under Dr. Morita’s leadership, CDPH developed and launched Healthy Chicago 2.0, a four-year

plan to assure healthy equity by addressing the social determinants of health. In addition, under her leadership, CDPH led efforts to pass several tobacco prevention initiatives including raising the age for purchasing tobacco products to 21 years.

Previously, Dr. Morita served as CDPH's Chief Medical Officer leading the city's response to the pandemic influenza outbreak where she developed a system to distribute more than one million doses of vaccine across the city as well as the city's efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of the Ebola virus. Dr. Morita has served as a member of the Institute of Medicines Committee on Community Based Solutions to Promote Health Equity, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the National Vaccine Advisory Committee, and the Illinois Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics. Prior to her time with CDPH, Dr. Morita served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the CDC and worked in private practice. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical School.

### **HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration Overview**

#### **Rebecca Zornick, *Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration***

Rebecca Zornick is a Lead Policy Analyst in the National Mental Health and Substance Use Laboratory at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). She came to the federal government as a Presidential Management Fellow. She is a staff lead for children, youth and family policy and the trauma portfolio. Rebecca has served on details with the Administration on Children, Youth, and Family and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the Department of Justice providing input and expertise on trauma, child well-being, and effective federal collaboration. She holds a Master of Science in Social Work degree from Columbia University and a Juris Doctor from University of North Carolina School of Law.

### **Promoting Safety, Healing and Wellness in Communities**

#### **Lina Cramer, *Wisdom Exchange, Inc.***

Lina is the co-founder and Co-Chair of the Illinois ACE Response Collaborative which is committed to expanding the understanding of the impact of childhood trauma and adversity (ACEs) on the health and well-being of Illinois children, youth, families and their communities.

Lina's current focus is on broadening and deepening the understanding and capacity of practitioners and community residents to respond to violence and trauma and to create peaceful places of belonging and contribution. She works with Bridging the Divide - a joint project of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago and the Community Policing (CAPS) Unit of the Chicago Police Department - to enhance their ability to increase community safety, healing and resilience by building meaningful partnerships among youth, community residents and organizations.

Lina has been instrumental in introducing conversational leadership approaches to Illinois practitioners and policymakers as a key strategy for strengthening partnerships in communities to foster relationships and deepen understanding that lead to wise action. She spearheaded the design and implementation of Parent Cafes - based on the World Café - which are conversations led by parents with parents to keep children safe and families strong. Lina is a Steward of the Art of Hosting and serves on the World Cafe Community Foundations Stewardship Council. She received her Masters in Social Work at University of Michigan.

#### **Rev. Shirley Fleming, PhD, *Faith Health Promotion, Office for Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships at UIC and The Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation***

Shirley Fleming is a long-time advocate for equity and social justice in health and human services. She has dedicated more than thirty years of her public health career to working locally and nationally as a provider, administrator and advocate to assure that all people, especially those who are disadvantaged, have the opportunity to enjoy the highest level of health and engagement in human society. This includes being able to develop their God-given gifts and talents. Prior to retirement, she operated as the second ranking public health officer for the City at the Chicago Department of Public Health. She was appointed to this position by Mayor Richard M. Daley in December, 2000. Her responsibilities included working collaboratively with other City Departments; governmental and private agencies (state, local and national) to enhance secure and coordinate the resources and public policies that are required to achieve the public health mission and vision of healthy people in healthy neighborhoods. She retired from this position in March, 2004 to respond to God's call to attend seminary and do the work of health, healing and social justice. Her current ministry focuses improving and transforming personal and community health by utilizing the faith beliefs and practices to heal those who live on the margins, liberate their gifts and engage them in the work of creating just and loving relationships and systems of care. In March of 2013, she was called to be the co-director of The Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation (The Center), a collaborative between Advocate's Health Care and the Office for Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Throughout the life and history of The Center she has worked on various Center projects as a consultant.

Dr. Fleming received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. Xavier College, School of Nursing in 1972. She received her Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Illinois, College of Nursing in 1977 in MCH with a specialty in nurse-midwifery. She earned a Doctorate in Public Health from the University of Illinois, School of Public Health in 1994 with a special focus in community health and maternal-child health and a minor in health services. She accepted her call to ministry in 2002 and graduated in 2007 with a Masters of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary. She is a member in discernment with the Chicago Metropolitan Association (CMA). She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC). She has been an active member of Trinity United Church of Christ's health and wellness for more than 16 years and its Justice Watch Team.

**Suzette Fromm Reed, PhD, *National Louis University***

Suzette Fromm Reed serves as Associate Professor, founding director/chair of National Louis University's (NLU) PhD in Community Psychology. Prior to NLU, she led non-profit, children and family services agencies at both the national and local level on research and evaluation. She draws upon her clinical and community training and decades of experience with child maltreatment. Her research interests and recent publications focus on the buffering role of community resilience with a focus on children and non-traditional adult students impacted by ACEs.

**Andrea Ortez, *Partnership for Resilience***

Andrea moved to Chicago from her native Los Angeles in 2007 to attend Loyola University Chicago. She started working with the Southwest Organizing Project back in 2008 running youth programming, while in college. Eventually, she became the Education Director in 2010 and led the Statewide Parent Mentor Program, a program model to increase parent engagement within public schools across Illinois. Last summer she joined the Partnership for Resilience and is tasked with transforming and integrating education, health care, and community organizations to create a trauma-informed, family-focused system that measurably improves academic, health, and social outcomes for children in the Southland. Andrea lives on the southwest side of Chicago with her husband, two younger brothers and their 7-month-old puppy.

**Rev. Dr. Kirsten Peachey, MSW, MDiv., DMin., *Advocate Health Care***

Kirsten Peachey is Director of Congregational Health Partnerships for Advocate Health Care where she supports the role of faith communities to promote the health of their members and the communities they

serve. She was instrumental in founding The Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation, which advances health equity through community building, leadership development and connecting the unique spirit power of people of faith to promote social justice and abundant life for all. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Kirsten holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Chicago, and a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry in faith and health from the Chicago Theological Seminary.

**Jacqueline Samuel, PhD** *Co-Chair of the Community Capacity Building Committee, Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative*

Jacqueline Samuel Ph.D. is a Community Psychologist, Adjunct Professor at National Louis University Chicago Campus and Artist. She currently is the Project Manager for the Housing Authority of Cook County South Suburban Safe and Thriving Communities Project. The project involves planning and implementation to address youth violence in 3 suburban communities. Jackie facilitated quality of Life planning and developed community engagement programs for 10 years in the South Chicago Area. Some of the notable programs that she developed, managed or consulted in as a result of the planning process include Building Communities through the Arts, Chicago Public Schools' Safe Passage Program, Cure Violence/ Ceasefire, and the United Way Neighborhood Network Trauma, and the Southeast Coalition for the Arts. She also serves on the Health and Healing committee/ Mayor's Commission for a Safer Chicago, the Community-Academic Collaboration to Prevent Violence in Chicago through Lurie Children's Hospital Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY), and Advocate Trinity Hospital Community Health Council. She is a part of the Leadership team of the Illinois ACE's Response Collaborative and Co-chair of the Community Capacity Building Committee. Jackie holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy and a Doctorate in Community Psychology from National Louis University. Her dissertation was about community engagement titled, "Advancing the Block Club Model as a Violence Reduction Strategy". She was also a Co-Investigator for Community Academic Collaboration to Prevent Violence in Chicago Research with Strengthening Chicago's Youth. Her most recent awards in 2016 include National Louis University Reach Award, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital Courage Award, the Chicago Police Department CAPS Award for the 4th District, and the South Chicago Chamber of Commerce Neil Bosanko Award.

### **ACEs and Trauma-Informed Care in Health Settings**

**Stacye Flint, MDiv, BCC**, *Advocate Children's Hospital*

Before devoting her work full-time to pediatric chaplaincy five years ago, Stacye dedicated 20 years to working in non-profit, academic, prison, and church settings. She thinks difficult and wonderful things can happen when people gather to honestly support whole person care, resist injustice, and promote healing. Before getting her Masters of Divinity in spiritual formation and hospital systems she studied interpersonal and group communications, adult education, and psychology. For this conference, she is looking forward to supporting community leaders as they further develop their wisdom and skills towards attending to the vulnerable edges that surround the lives of patients and their families.

**Gina Lowell, MD, MPH**, *Rush University Children's Hospital*

Gina Lowell is a general pediatrician at Rush University Children's Hospital, an academic Children's Hospital situated on the West Side of Chicago. As Rush's Director of Community Health for Pediatrics since 2016, she has built and worked with a multidisciplinary team to develop initiatives to improve the health and well-being of families with young children living in Chicago's West Side community areas. She has conducted research in childhood injury prevention and serves on Rush's Child Protection Team, consulting on cases of child abuse and neglect. She also precepts pediatric residents and nurse practitioners and teaches Evidence Based Medicine to medical students, residents and faculty at Rush.

**Rev. Carol S. Reese, LCSW**, *Cook County Trauma Unit, John H Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County*

The Rev. Carol Reese is the Violence Prevention Coordinator in the Department of Trauma and Burns at

John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County. She has 17 years experience at Stroger, 12 of which have been in Trauma. Rev. Reese directs projects integrating spiritual care, mental health services, palliative care best practices, violence prevention, and trauma-informed care into the work of the Department of Trauma. She is the Principal Investigator and Program Director for Healing Hurt People Chicago, a hospital-based violence intervention and trauma recovery program that is a partnership between Stroger, University of Chicago Medicine, and Drexel University.

Rev. Reese has published on the extent of posttraumatic stress symptoms among urban trauma patients and their families and the impact that violent injury and multiple exposures to violence have on posttraumatic stress symptoms. Reese is a priest in the Episcopal Church and is cross-trained as a social worker and hospital chaplain. She developed a social work internship program in the Department of Trauma and a hospital-wide Chaplain Fellowship in Critical Care. Previously she served for 11 years as executive director of AIDS Pastoral Care Network in Chicago.

**Audrey Stillerman, *Medical Affairs UIC Office of Community Engagement***

An advocate for Chicago's most vulnerable residents, Dr. Stillerman is a board-certified integrative family physician, Associate Director of Medical Affairs for the University of Illinois Office of Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships, Clinical Assistant Professor in the UIC Department of Family medicine, Member of the Illinois ACE Response Collaborative and co-founder of the Center for the Collaborative Study of Trauma, Health Equity and Neurobiology. She is currently participating in Phase 1 training of the Child Trauma Academy's Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics. Since learning about the profound impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Dr. Stillerman has made it her mission to share this critical information with colleagues, patients, students, and community members.

**Marlita White, BSW, MSW, LCSW, *Chicago Department of Public Health***

Marlita has served as a child and family therapist with families with serious child welfare and/or psychiatric concerns. After which, she transitioned into the violence prevention arena developing programs and supporting community initiatives. She is a seasoned crisis responder with experience in conflict mediation, psycho-spiritual bereavement counseling, and peace circle facilitation. She is certified to administer the ACE Interface curriculum on Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) and is a frequent trainer on childhood trauma, teen dating violence prevention, community engagement, and childhood exposure to violence prevention. Her violence prevention work spans managing federal demonstration projects, collaborating on program evaluation and action research, strategic planning, and multi-year/multi-site program implementation efforts. Marlita routinely leads and/or participates in multi-level collaborations related to issues that influence the safety and wellbeing of young children, youth, families, and communities and the systems that serve them. She is the director for the Chicago Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention and Behavioral Health where her portfolio includes violence, mental health support, and substance use prevention and response. She currently co-leads various trauma informed transformation focused initiatives.

**Spotlight: Using ACEs Connection to Build Community**

**Gail Kennedy, *ACEs Connection***

Gail Kennedy is the Director of Programs at ACEs Connection, a national non-profit that connects communities to prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), heal trauma and build resilience. Gail has a Master of Public Health in Socio-medical Sciences with over 30 years' experience working in HIV programming, mental health services and child abuse prevention. Prior to joining ACEs Connection, Gail spent 10 years at the University of California, San Francisco where she directed international HIV programs, managing multimillion dollar grant programs. Gail has been with ACEs Connection since May 2015 and as the program lead, helps create tools, resources and programs that support communities. Gail

has an affiliation with UC Davis's Institute for Population Health Improvement and serves on the Steering Group of the California Essentials for Childhood Initiative and the California Campaign to Counter Childhood Adversity.

### **Integrating Trauma-Informed Work with Youth and Schools**

#### **Kristine Argue-Mason, Illinois Education Association - NEA**

Kristine Argue-Mason is a strong advocate for union voice in professional leadership and fully believes that professional development is union business. Currently an Instructional Resource and Professional Development Director for the Illinois Education Association, Kristine's primary focus has been developing and delivering professional development to meet the IEA's objectives of building awareness of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), and helping implement trauma-informed practices in schools across Illinois. Through partnerships and utilizing resources from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) and other vetted resources, she is absolutely delighted to share such vital information that will undoubtedly change the educational landscape for our most vulnerable students. ([Kristine.argue@ieanea.org](mailto:Kristine.argue@ieanea.org))

#### **Claire Coyne, PhD, Center for Childhood Resilience Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital and Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University**

Dr. Coyne received a BA in Psychology with Honors from the University of Chicago, and a doctoral degree in Clinical Science from the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Indiana University. She joined the Center for Childhood Resilience in 2015. She collaborates with community organizations and schools to promote the use of evidence-based interventions and trauma-informed practices. Her clinical training and work has focused broadly on providing evidence-based treatment for at-risk youth and their families, including youth exposed to childhood trauma, and gender-nonconforming and transgender youth. Dr. Coyne provides consultation services to Chicago Public Schools, other school Districts and organizations to implement practices and frameworks to address the mental and behavioral health needs of children and adolescents, and to build the capacity of adults working with these youth.

She is a member of the Lurie Children's Trauma Team and provides trauma-related outpatient services to children and adolescents referred to the hospital due to exposure to traumatic violence, physical or sexual abuse, or neglect. Dr. Coyne is part of the Lurie Children's Gender and Sex Development Program (GSDP), a multidisciplinary team designed to support the physical and psychosocial health of children and adolescents throughout gender identity development.

#### **Leslie Helmcamp, Strengthening Chicago's Youth**

Leslie Helmcamp, Policy Manager with Strengthening Chicago's Youth at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, is responsible for leading analysis, development, promotion and implementation of policy and system change strategies to prevent violence in Chicago. Her role includes co-managing the Juvenile Justice Collaborative, an innovative program designed to help young people who have been arrested to access community services and avoid further involvement in the justice system. Leslie earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. Leslie is proud to have called Bergen, Norway her home when she was an exchange student in 1992-93.

#### **Keith Kelley, The Spoken Word Academy of Chicago**

Keith M. Kelley is an African-American poet, spoken word artist, musician, cultural activist, and certified youth development practitioner. Kelley is also founder of the Funky Wordsmiths Ensemble, and Executive Director for the Spoken Word Academy of Chicago. He currently conducts the Spoken Word Academy @ Kelly Hall YMCA apprenticeship for After School Matters. Throughout his over 25-year career, Kelley has

and continues to contribute his time, talents, and expertise to further numerous community organizations and initiatives around the arts, education, violence prevention, public spaces, poverty, trauma, and developing opportunities for youth.

**Jai Luster, *Calm Classroom***

Jai Luster is the founder and executive director of the not-for-profit Luster Learning Institute NFP and co-creator and leader of the mindfulness based Calm Classroom program which began in 2008. During the last 35 years, Jai has been publicly designing and teaching mental health, mindfulness and yoga workshops that specialize in training both children and adults to help control and concentrate the mind, enhance alertness, improve physical stamina, decrease stress, and find greater personal satisfaction. Jai was a senior executive director at Mesirow Financial in Chicago, where he served as an institutional money manager for over 20 years. Today, the investment limited-partnership that he founded, is one of the largest hedge-funds in the world. His clients included international companies, Fortune 500 corporations, and some of the largest insurance companies in the world. Jai retired from his corporate career at Mesirow Financial in 2001 to begin the process of establishing the Luster Learning Institute NFP and to grow the Calm Classroom program. He attended primary and secondary school in the Chicago Public School system and graduated from the University of Colorado in 1969.

**Spotlight: “E-Learning: Understanding and Responding to the Effects of ACEs Through the Lifespan”**

**Sheela Raja, PhD, *University of Illinois at Chicago***

Sheela Raja is an Associate Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Colleges of Dentistry and Medicine. She completed internship and post-doctoral training at the National Center for PTSD. She is the author of *Overcoming Trauma and PTSD*, *The Sexual Trauma Workbook for Teen Girls*, and the *PTSD Survival Guide for Teens*. Her research is focused on training healthcare providers to sensitively interact with survivors of traumatic events.

**Federal Level Approaches to ACEs and Trauma**

**Mousumi Banikya-Leaseburg, MD, MPH, CPH, *HHS, Office of Adolescent Health***

Mousumi Banikya-Leaseburg has worked for 18 years in the field of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Maternal and Child Health. In her early career as a physician in India, Dr. Banikya-Leaseburg primarily served patients from marginalized populations such as tribal women and children. Much of her work has involved addressing gender hierarchy in health and integrating intimate partner violence prevention and trauma informed care into clinical practice. She worked with the Indian Red Cross on a Reproductive and Child Health Government of India project (National Rural Health Mission) providing capacity building assistance to health care workers, with the goal of reducing infant mortality and maternal mortality, and increasing child survival rates. Dr. Banikya-Leaseburg has also received training in internal medicine and pediatrics in the United States. She has designed interventions promoting the correct and consistent use of modern contraceptives in diverse populations across India, Honduras, and the US. Prior to joining the Office of Adolescent Health, Dr. Banikya-Leaseburg worked as a Program Manager with Healthy Teen Network on several federally funded (ACF-PREP, OAH, CDC) ASRH programs providing oversight, training and technical assistance to grantees and led an effort to enhance the youth-friendliness of Title X clinics in Baltimore City in collaboration with the Baltimore City Health Department. She also worked as a Social Sciences Research Specialist in the Department of Pediatrics at West Virginia University School of Medicine on a federally funded (OAH), Tier 1, tri-state, multi-site, teen pregnancy prevention program. Currently, she is a Project Officer in the Office of Adolescent Health and serves as the lead for the Pregnancy Assistance Program, a \$25 million grant program to support expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families with a seamless network of supportive services. She also provides

oversight and technical assistance to TPP and PAF grantees. She is the Office subject matter expert for Trauma Informed Approaches and the lead for Linkages and Referrals to youth-friendly services.

Dr. Banikya-Leaseburg obtained her medical degree from Gauhati Medical College, Assam, India and graduated from WVU School of Public Health with an MPH in Social and Behavioral Theory, and Graduate Certificates in Women's Health and Global Public Health. She also holds a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies from WVU Center for Women's and Gender Studies. Dr. Banikya-Leaseburg holds an Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certification and is also certified in Public Health (CPH) practice.

**Maria Pestalardo**, *HHS, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care – Region V*  
Maria Pestalardo joined the Office of Child Care in January 2015 as a Program Specialist for Region V. She is also the OCC Tribal Lead for the Region. She worked in various Federal Programs for low income/poor children and families since 2004 including Early Head Start, the Migrant Education Program and the Workforce Investment Act. Previously, she was the Sr. Director of Operations in an Early Childhood Education Agency in Evanston, IL; worked at the National Council of La Raza overseeing several health care workforce development grants and was a Regional Coordinator for the Georgia and Tennessee Migrant Education Programs, as such she was responsible for the full delivery services in the assigned geographical region to ensure compliance with federal regulations. In Argentina, she was a Presidential Advisor and a Communication Executive for Fleishman Hillard International Communications for over 5 years.

**Catherine Pierce**, *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice*  
Catherine Pierce is a Senior Advisor in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Prior to coming to OJJDP in June of 2010, she was twice the Acting Director of DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) where she served as a Deputy Director for thirteen years. In her capacity as Senior Advisor to the Administrator, she has counseled the office's leadership on diverse matters of policy, program, and administration. She also leads OJJDP's work on girls and the juvenile justice system, children exposed to violence, and childhood trauma. While at OJJDP, she developed expertise on system-involved girls, youth violence prevention, domestic child sex trafficking, issues specific to tribal youth, and professional development in the juvenile justice field for practitioners in the criminal and juvenile justice system.

At the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), she oversaw the development and implementation of twenty-one grant programs created by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and she created and directed OVW's training and technical assistance initiative. She also started a comprehensive effort to measure the effectiveness of VAWA grant programs, developed outreach and communications strategies, and managed special projects and demonstration initiatives.

From 2000 to 2004, she represented the Department of Justice as a civilian member of the Department of Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence. From 2005 to 2006, she was on detail from OVW as a Senior Advisor to the Ambassador-at-Large for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the U.S. Department of State.

Before joining DOJ, Ms. Pierce directed the Summer of Safety, a predecessor to AmeriCorps, at the Corporation for National and Community Service. Prior to that, she served as a Deputy at the State Justice Institute (SJI) where she developed and managed its judicial education program. Before her work with SJI, she served as Deputy Director of the American Bar Association's Female Offender Resource Center where her work focused on the differential treatment of women and girls in the adult corrections and juvenile justice systems. She was also actively involved in developing literacy and arts programs for detained and confined youth and juvenile justice reform efforts in Western Massachusetts and Washington, DC.

**Carmen Santiago Roberts**, *Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice*  
Carmen Santiago Roberts is a Grant Management Specialist in the State and Community Development, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Department of Justice. She is responsible for overseeing the implementation of juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs in several states funded through the formula grants program. Also, Ms. Santiago Roberts oversees the implementation of the OJJDP's Youth Violence Prevention and Safe and Thriving Communities initiatives in various jurisdictions. She also serves as the Program Manager for the Changing Minds Professional Development and Public Education to Address Children Exposed to Violence and Childhood Trauma.

**Jeanne VanOrsdal**, *ICF State Capacity Building Center*

Ms. VanOrsdal has more than 35 years of experience in the field of early education and child care, with 10 years of providing technical assistance to Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) grantees. She joined the State Capacity Building Center (SCBC) as an Infant/Toddler Specialist (ITS) when the Center was funded in 2015 where she now supports 11 states with Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) on effective and meaningful improvements in infant/toddler child care quality. She specializes in matters of health and safety within the ITS Network and supports National work within the SCBC on related topics. Before joining the SCBC, Ms. VanOrsdal was the Early Education and Child Care Initiatives Manager at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Her responsibilities included directing the Healthy Child Care America (HCCA) project, collaborating on the Head Start National Center of Health, and providing support for the pediatric members of the Section on Early Education and Child Care.

### **Working in the Criminal Justice System**

**M. Michelle Day, JD**, *Nehemiah Trinity Rising*

A minister, attorney and certified mediator, with more than 25 years of experience in conflict transformation, Ms. Day is dedicated to the healing of community. She founded, Nehemiah Trinity Rising, a 501c3 corporation, which serves to educate and train regarding RJ and provides implementation strategies for restorative justice practices in all community settings. Through Nehemiah, Ms. Day participated in drafting the restorative justice implementation plan for Chicago Public Schools, and led the implementation of RJ in several schools, including York Alternative High School, (serving youth in Cook County Jail). She has facilitated the implementation of restorative justice education and training for returning citizens, who in turn provide re-entry assistance to others. Through the Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative, Ms. Day is assisting in developing trauma informed communities and congregations. Ms. Day is employed as Program Administrator for the Resource Section, Juvenile Justice and Child Protection Department of the Circuit Court of Cook County. In this capacity she assists Judge Sophia Hall in developing restorative justice collaborations between courts, community, public and private agencies to meet the needs of court involved children and families. Ms. Day serves as the Resource Section member of the city wide Community Restorative Justice HUBS leadership circle, which provides guidance and evaluation to RJ Hubs and assisted in the formation of the Community Restorative Justice Court. She is a graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary (M.Div.), DePaul College of Law and Indiana University.

**Nancy Michaels**, *Office of the Chief Judge, Cook County Circuit Court*

Nancy Michaels is currently the Restorative Justice Community Court Coordinator at the Circuit Court of Cook County where she is working on the launch of the pilot project for this innovative court in North Lawndale. Her prior work was at Roosevelt University at the Associate Director at the Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation. She has a BA in Social Justice Studies and an MA in Sociology from Roosevelt University. Her work and areas of interest and activism lie in justice reform, mass incarceration, community and restorative justice and more broadly, in raising awareness around the societal structures, policy and institutions that lead to the marginalization and criminalization of whole communities in urban

environments. Nancy is a highly collaborative and driven change agent with a passion and focus for moving social justice initiatives forward by building relationships and raising consciousness through research, program development and community engagement. Nancy is a restorative justice practitioner and trainer, has developed and led restorative justice programming in two Chicago Public schools, leads the “Embrace Restorative Justice in Schools Collaborative,” and was a key member in the vision, planning, and evaluation of the Restorative Justice Community Court.

**Elena Quintana, PhD, *Institute on Public Safety & Social Justice, Adler University***

Elena Quintana, a Ph.D., is the Executive Director of the Institute on Public Safety & Social Justice at Adler University. Dr. Quintana is a clinical and community psychologist focused on research and programming that aims to reclaim human potential and promote socially just solutions to address public safety concerns. Areas of focus include designing and evaluating community violence prevention efforts, addressing trauma, and creating and evaluating alternatives to incarceration. Dr. Quintana also helps communities, agencies, and governments to understand and respond programmatically to ACEs research.