

Alphabetical by Speakers Last Name (As submitted by Presenter)

Almazar, Raul, RN, MA

Mr. Almazar recently served as the Acting Deputy Director for the State of Illinois Department of Mental Health, with primary responsibility for the 1958 inpatient beds operated by the state. A registered nurse by training, Mr. Almazar practiced psychiatric nursing for many years before moving into the management side of hospital operations. Mr. Almazar, serving as the Hospital Administrator at Elgin Mental Health Center during the duration of the SAMHSA restraint and seclusion reduction grant, was instrumental in the success of Elgin's restraint and seclusion use reduction. To achieve these reductions, he facilitated an organizational culture shift that created a person-centered, recovery-enhancing, trauma-informed treatment environment. His work has been recognized statewide and nationally. As president of his own management consulting firm, he provides consultation, training and technical assistance to organizations in the areas of leadership, workforce development, consumer empowerment and organizational culture to effect systems transformation towards development of non-coercive treatments. Mr. Almazar was appointed to be the Deputy Director for the State of Illinois with the charge to generalize the organizational cultural shift to all state operated facilities. He also recently served as expert consultant in the development of recommendations in the Illinois Equip for Equality's report Private Psychiatric Hospital Initiative: Keeping Patients with Mental Illness Safe: Chicago Area Hospitals' Compliance with Restraint and Seclusion Laws.

Barajas, Alex, M.S.

Barajas-Muñoz has a Master's Degree in Neurosciences and is currently in his third year of the PhD in Counseling Psychology Program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). He is a Research Associate, Evaluator and Trainer with Mid-America Addiction Technology Transfer Center at UMKC. His areas of expertise include: evaluation and research (development of evaluation instruments, data collection, data analysis and technical report writing); counseling; training, editing and translating (English/Spanish) professional literature in the areas of psychology, neuroscience and substance use disorders; psychotherapeutic medications; and counseling special populations (Hispanic, LGBT).

Bloom, Dan, B.S.

Dan Bloom has worked with families and young adults for 7 years. He recently started working at Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare in 2011 and is a Transitional Youth Professional Partner. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

Bolender, Cheryl, MA, MSW, LISW-S

Cheryl Bolender, Division Director of Recovery Services with LifePoint Solutions has 30 years of experience working in Public Mental Health services in a wide variety of direct care and administrative positions. Her current mental health care administrator position with LifePoint Solutions includes the design and implementation of projects to continue to move the system of care forward in the area of Utilization Management. Her passion for assuring that clients receive the right services at the right time in the right service mix is driven by her standard of delivering services she would purchase for her own family.

Brown, Rebecca, LSAC, BSHS

Rebecca Brown, LSAC, BSHS and 2nd year MSW student is the Program Coordinator for Valley Mental Health, a non-profit organization specializing in mental health, substance abuse and prevention services. She has dedicated **16** years working with criminal offenders and designing programs for both jail diversion and alternatives to incarceration.

Rebecca's extensive experience led to her creating and implementing the Co-Occurring Reentry and Empowerment program in 2009, a residential support facility designed to treat male criminal offenders who are dually diagnosed in an alternative to incarceration setting. She also oversees the Community Response Team providing jail in reach and Jail Diversion Outreach programs designed to reduce jail recidivism, psychiatric hospital stays, and substance abuse while increasing housing stability and improving quality of life.

Burney, Juli, M.A.

Ms. Burney is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Communication and Theatre at Doane College in Lincoln, Nebraska, and has worked as a professional motivational humorist since 1985. Ms. Burney has filmed for Showtime and HBO, is a published author and a Nebraska Artist in Residence. A recipient of the 2000 Toastmasters International Communication and Leadership Award, Ms. Burney is also the 2002 winner of the Artist of the Year Award from the Nebraska Arts Council and has five times been named "Teacher of the Year" at Doane College Lincoln, Nebraska.

Carpenter, Kim

Kim Carpenter is the Community Outreach Specialist for Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska. Kim does rural site development for retention, recruitment and competency of the behavioral health workforce. She was director of Nebraska Coalition for Women's Treatment and Trauma-Informed Nebraska, which conducted assessments and training on trauma-informed care within behavioral health settings. Kim has offered training for 14 years. Her training topics include trauma-informed care, interpersonal violence, vicarious trauma, childhood sexual abuse prevention, substance use disorder, sex trade, Seeking Safety, peer support and body-mind connection. Kim has initiated and/or facilitated peer support groups across the state for consumers/trauma survivors/recovering individuals.

Christian-Michaels, Stephen

Stephan Christian-Michaels, MA, LSW is the Chief Operating Office of Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, and has worked in the mental health and child welfare field for the past 32 years. He has been on loan to Allegheny County half time for five years to assist with a State Hospital closure and has been coordinating an initiative to transform the way case management is delivered, supported, funded, and the way staff are trained. This initiative was recognized by the Annapolis Coalition and the Hitachi Foundation as a BH Pacesetter Award winner.

Coleman, Becki, B.S.

Becki Coleman has worked in the behavioral health field with children and adults for 17 years. She has been at Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare for 15 years and is a Supervisor for the Professional Partner Program. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Service Counseling from Wayne State College.

Cox, Sally Marie, MEd, LIMHP, LADC, CPRP

Sally Marie Cox is the Outpatient Program Director for South Central Behavioral Services located in South Central Nebraska. She has over twenty years of experience in the field of Behavioral Health. Sally received her Master's Degree in Community Counseling through the University of Nebraska Kearney in 2005. She is also an alumni of Bellevue University and Central Community College. Sally holds licenses and certificates as a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner, Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner, and Certified Motivational Interviewing Trainer - Wyoming Protocol. She is a member of the National Board for Certified Counselors and Internationally Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors.

Dozier, Renee', MPA

Renee' has over 19 years of professional and volunteer experience with program development within the juvenile justice, behavioral health and public school systems. Over the past 11 years, she has worked in Nebraska to integrate the Systems of Care principles as a way of "doing business" in regards to providing services and supports to children and their families.

Renee' is currently the Director of Children and Family Services for Region V Systems where she is responsible for overseeing Children's Systems of Care development in the Region V geographical area as well as for playing an integral role with the ongoing development of the statewide Children's Behavioral Health System. Recently Renee' established the Region V 'Systems of Care' Training Institutes designed to provide skill-based training in the area of Systems of Care development and implementation. She also is a member of the Region V Systems Management Team.

Renee' earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1988 in the area of health and community services. She earned a Masters Degree in Public Administration at the University of Nebraska-Omaha in 2004, with an emphasis in administration, service development and community relations. Renee earned a Graduate Certificate in Children's Mental Health from the University of Southern Florida in 2010

Fisher, Dennis, M.M.

Dennis has worked in behavioral health for over 35 years . He began as a Registered Music Therapist, served as Team Leader of the Community Treatment Teams (CTT) and Training Specialist BHTEN. Dennis has authored the Philadelphia Behavioral Health CM Orientation curriculum. Local, state & national conference topics have included the CTT "Philadelphia Experience", Time & Stress Management, Training Case Managers, Crisis Management and Enriching Recovery through Cultural Competence. Dennis has a B.S. in Education, a Master of Music Therapy Degree and post-graduate work in Health Care Administration. Recently he received the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health "Above & Beyond Award - For longstanding compassion...and dedication...to service..."

Frese, Frederick, Ph.D.

Dr. Frese currently holds psychology faculty appointments in psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University and The Northeastern Ohio University's College of Medicine and Pharmacy, and has held teaching positions at Kent State, Ohio University, and the Ashland Theological Seminary. He has published numerous articles and chapters and serves on the advisory board for Schizophrenia Bulletin and Psychiatric Rehabilitation.

Gillespie, Kevin, MHSA, RN

Kevin has over 30 years experience combining direct service, system development and administration throughout the Appalachian Ohio region. He is a registered nurse with much of his work focused on creating innovative service solutions with partners across public service systems (including housing, employment, behavioral and primary healthcare) and in alliance with many therapeutic, clinical and other helping professionals. Along with his responsibilities as Executive Director of Integrated Services and the Blue Sky Alliance of Appalachian Ohio, Kevin is involved with Bill Madsen and Andrew Tatarsky to reframe a progressive framework for integrative behavioral, health and supportive services.

Contact Kevin at 740-594-6807 or by email at kgillespie@integratedservice.org.

Gleason, Virginia, JD, MPA, CHC

Virginia Gleason is a Senior Regulatory Compliance Consultant. She is an experienced Health Care professional with over fifteen years experience in healthcare regulatory compliance and law. In addition to this regulatory experience, she has clinical education and worked as a nurse in the acute care setting for several years while completing her advanced degrees. Virginia has used this clinical experience to advise and work directly with utilization review/case management professionals. She has extensive experience in the areas of RAC program develop, medical necessity audits, case management department reorganization, day-to-day case management operational functions and compliance program development.

Green, Alan, BA, MPA

Alan Green is the Executive Director of the Mental Health Association of Nebraska, a consumer run organization providing wellness/recovery support services to adults in Nebraska. Programs include HOPE (supported employment) and Keya House (hospital diversion), both of which have gained national recognition. Mr. Green has a BA in Political Science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and an MPA from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Guthrie, Libby, Ed. D.

Libby Guthrie began her work in the field of HIV 24 years ago. She has had a unique opportunity to work in several areas of community- based systems. These include case management, direct service delivery, program development, prevention outreach, education, syringe exchange, homeless services, and other collaborations that ensure essential services to those with HIV, HCV and the dually-diagnosed.

Her doctoral dissertation research was conducted comparing HIV service delivery systems, highlighting components of successful systems, changing “illness narratives” and quality of life perceptions, and the components of systems that have a positive correlation to better health outcomes.

Hancock, Susan

Susan Hancock is a Consumer Specialist with Region V Systems and a Certified Peer Support and Wellness Specialist in Nebraska. She is a certified WRAP facilitator and facilitates Mental Health Recovery Including Wellness Recovery Action Planning. Her training has also included Intentional Peer Support and training to facilitate the Nebraska Peer Support and Wellness Specialist curriculum. She is also a member of the PAIMI (Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness) Advisory Council for Nebraska Advocacy Services and a member of the Mental Health Association of Nebraska Board of Directors.

Hannon, Kristina, MSW

Kristina has worked in community behavioral health for 11 years. She began her career as a case manager working with adults. Additional clinical experience includes group therapy and crisis intervention/stabilization. Kristina has held positions at two metropolitan hospitals as an emergency room social worker and has worked in home health. Kristina has served in an administrative capacity for five years in community behavioral health. Kristina has served as an Adjunct Instructor of Social Work and has supervised students from multiple universities as they complete practicum experiences. Kristina holds an MSW and is completing an MPA.

Higgs, Rosalee, MSW

Rosalee is the program officer for Project Everlast and will be coordinating youth council members to speak during the panel conversation. See page 8 for biographical description.

Howard, Roberta, LCS, BHP, BHT, MS, MA

Roberta Howard is a published author, researcher and CEO of a peer-operated mental health recovery organization. She designs curricula in recovery, prevention, and education. She has also done a good deal of research in education, prevention and currently has several research projects in recovery. She is the Chair of the Partners of Native American Public Health, VP of Arizona Health Insurance Pool, Member of: AZ_CEOs, Arizona Council of Human Service Providers, Arizona Community Action Assoc., National Rural Mental Health Assoc.

Ingram, Tonya, PLMHP, Ms. Ed

Tonya Ingram is a Provisionally Licensed Mental Health Practitioner with 14 years experience working in the mental health field in a variety of positions ranging from in-patient psychiatric hospitalization to out-patient case management. She is currently with Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska, Inc. as their Clinical Supervisor supervising the community-based Behavioral Health Services, including Community Support, Emergency Community Support and Day Rehabilitation Services programming, comprising of 18 case managers and 3 peer support specialists. "Creating a Trauma Informed Environment" addresses small steps for impacting both clients/consumers and your workforce in positive healthy ways based on research in the field of Trauma Informed Care and on practices that have been implemented in the Goodwill BH services.

Johnson, C.J., MSW, LCSW, LMHP

C.J. Johnson, LMHP, LCSW - With over 30 years in human services, C.J. is currently the Regional Administrator of Region V Systems which provides administrative and contractual oversight services for behavioral health services in southeast Nebraska. Maintaining a small private practice, C.J. specializes in working with children and adolescents and their families. A highly praised regular speaker at conferences and seminars, C.J. has a well established reputation of presenting on organizational topics and provides consultation to other professionals and organizations. C.J. serves on the NACM Board of Directors.

Kreifels, Patrick, MSW, PLMSW, PLMHP

Patrick Kreifels, MSW, PLMHP, PLMSW, Continuous Quality Improvement Director for Region V Systems, a Behavioral Health Organization in Southeast Nebraska, has 16 years of experience in human services. Experience includes: evaluator for federal grants & programs, grant/proposal writing, providing therapy in an outpatient center and youth detention facility, case manager, and administrator for mental health and child welfare programs. Patrick has consulted with system of care grant sites and many other non-profit organizations. September 2009 CARF accreditation survey results "Region V Systems has built an exemplary infrastructure for its data collection system that clearly enhances the organization's quality improvement efforts."

Kuprevich, Carol, Ed.D.

Carol L. Kuprevich, Ed.D. is the Director of Community Planning, Program Development and Training for the Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health and Director of Education, Evaluation, Planning and Research in the Division's psychiatry residency program. She also maintains a private consultation business and has a faculty appointment as a Clinical Instructor, Clinician Educator in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Thomas Jefferson University, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, PA.

Prior to her work in Delaware, Dr. Kuprevich was on the executive staff of a large, comprehensive community mental health center in Rhode Island where she was director of emergency services, children's services, adult out patient services, an intake unit, and acute alternatives. She also worked as a counselor at the 28-day treatment program Edgehill Newport in Newport, RI.

Lemmer, Melissa

Melissa has been facilitating WRAP workshops since 2005. She received her WRAP facilitator training in Brattleboro, Vermont. Melissa has facilitated workshops across the state of Nebraska to over 400 participants. She received Advanced Level WRAP certification in 2010. Melissa currently works as a patient advocate at the Lincoln Regional Center and where she facilitates several WRAP and WRAP support groups. She utilizes her own WRAP plan and loves to share with others how the key concepts and the plan helped transform her life and continue to impact her overall wellness.

Madsen, William, Ph.D.

William Madsen, Ph.D. is the founding director of the Family-Centered Services Project. He provides international training and consultation regarding collaborative approaches to working with youth and families and assists community and government programs develop institutional practices and organizational cultures that support more respectful and responsive ways of serving families. Bill has written numerous articles and is the author of Collaborative Therapy with Multi-Stressed Families (2nd Edition). He is currently working on another book with Kevin Gillespie tentatively entitled, Helping: Towards More Supportive Services, which highlights a simple, accessible and comprehensive practice framework for family support workers, case managers and milieu workers.

Magdanz, Kara

Kara Magdanz, AD is employed with the Mental Health Association of Nebraska. Kara was instrumental in the development and implementation of the nationally accredited peer-to-peer supported-employment program and is currently the H.O.P.E. Program Coordinator. Kara is a WARP facilitator and currently teaches recovery principles to Southeast Community College human services students.

Miccio, Steve, BA

Steve Miccio is the Executive Director for PEOPLE, Inc. which is located in Poughkeepsie, NY. They are a peer operated advocacy organization serving people in 7 counties throughout New York. Steve has been instrumental in designing and implementing crisis/hospital diversion services in New York, Nebraska, and the Netherlands. Steve is considered an expert in peer operated diversion services and emergency services design. Steve has authored and edited chapters and white papers discussing transformation of mental health services in New York and Nebraska, and speaks locally, nationally and internationally on issues of changing the paradigm in their field of mental health from illness-based service delivery to illness-based service delivery.

Miles, Malcom, BA

Malcom Miles has worked at Region V Systems for 13 years and has coordinated the Region V Systems' CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) Coalition activities since 2003. He received a Graduate Certificate from the University of South Florida for completing a one year Systems of Care program that highlighted cultural competence as a key ingredient in service systems. He participates in the Lancaster County New Americans Task Force and served on the community's Medical Translation and Interpretation Leadership Team.

Miller, Mark, Ph.D.

Mark S. Miller received his doctorate in clinical psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies and completed pre-doctoral internships at Contra Costa County Regional Medical Center and at the New Bridge Foundation. Dr. Miller served on-staff at Tucker Psychiatric Hospital and at the Devereux Foundation's Institute of Clinical Training and Research. For the past ten years, Dr. Miller has served as senior clinician and services supervisor for Chesterfield County's Community Mental Health Support Services. Initially skeptical on the telework concept, he has become a believer in its applicability to community-based case management and its usefulness to serving folks diagnosed with developmental and mental health disabilities.

Minardi, Deb

Deb Minardi is the Deputy Probation Administrator in charge of Adult and Juvenile Programs and Services for the Office of Probation Administration. This includes the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS), Standardized Model for Delivery of Substance Abuse Services, Probation-based Drug Courts, Reporting Centers, Fee for Service Voucher Program, Domestic Violence, Sex Offender, Work Ethic Camp (WEC), DUI and Mental Health programs. She was appointed to this position January 1, 2006 with 31 years of experience in the field. She has conducted numerous trainings nationally and statewide, and received American Probation and Parole Association 2010, President's Award for the SSAS program.

Moro, Ritha, MS

Ritha Moro has worked with children and young adults for the past 10 years. She has worked for Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare for 8 years and is the Lead Worker for the Transitional Youth Program. She earned her Master of Science degree in Human Services from Bellevue University. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Langston University.

Moyer, Kasey, B.A.

Kasey Moyer, BA is the Associate Director of the Mental Health Association of Nebraska. Kasey assisted in the development and implementation of the only state funded consumer-directed programs in Nebraska: The H.O.P.E. Program nationally accredited peer-to-peer supported-employment program following established evidenced-based practices and fidelity protocols, and the Keya House, peer-to-peer crisis aversion support services. Kasey is also an appointed member of the State Advisor Committee on Mental Health Services

Munro, Ervin, M.S.

Ervin Munro, M.S. is the Director of Social Services for SRO Housing Corporation in Los Angeles. He oversees all supportive services for approximately 2,300 formerly homeless individuals including specialty services for persons with mental illnesses, HIV/AIDS, veterans, substance addictions, frail and dependent adults, and elderly.

Some previous work experiences include Trainer/Consultant; Operations Manager, AltaMed Health Services Corporation; Program Manager, Portals–Mental Health Rehabilitation Services; Program Manager, AIDS Project Los Angeles; Education Director, Labor Immigrant Assistance Project, LA County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO; Director, Information and Education Department, Immigration and Refugee Division, Catholic Charities of LA.

He received a B.S./Education and an M.S./School Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Post-graduate study was at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Marquette University, and others.

In 2011, he was awarded the national "Distinguished Alumni Award for Community/Regional Service" by the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Nicely, Ed

Ed Nicely is Operations Manager for Chesterfield Mental Health Support Services in Chesterfield Virginia. He manages and administers a centralized support services division serving children and adults with developmental and mental health disabilities. He is responsible for the development of customer service treatment planning and case utilization trends across multiple service lines. He is a demonstrated achiever with exceptional knowledge of community mental health business practices, and state/federal regulations. With twenty nine years of community base treatment design he has been recognized for the progress management approaches most recently the Telework Program and Employee Career Development System.

Packard, Denise, LMHP, LADC

Denise has been employed at CenterPointe for a little over 6 years. She began her career as a case manager, and then transitioned to be a therapist in the Youth Residential Program, and now is the Program Director of Housing. In her most recent position she is responsible for program oversight of several housing programs as well as the SOAR program, for which she is a trainer. In the short 3 years of being involved with the SOAR program she has seen many lives transformed as a result of utilizing the model and looks forward to the impact it will have on Nebraska as a State and nationwide movement.

Primus, Laura, B.S.

Laura Primus has worked with children and families for the past 9 years. She has worked for Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare for 2 years and is a Transitional Youth Professional Partner. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Service Counseling from Wayne State College.

Project Everlast

“Project Everlast works to create a community that listens and responds to the stated needs of youth and young adults with foster care experience. Project Everlast Councils are community-based, member-led advocacy groups comprised of people aged 14-24 who are currently in foster care and who are alumni of the foster care system.”
Rosalee Higgs, MSW - Nebraska Children and Families - Omaha, NE

Register-Joyner, Francess, M.Ed.

Francess Register-Joyner holds a graduate degree in counseling psychology with a concentration in community rehabilitation. She is a specialist in the area of providing community support to individuals living with a mental illness. She is a Board Member of the National Association of Case Management (NACM) and has worked in the field of mental health and substance abuse for over 25 years. During this time she has developed and implemented training programs for case managers in several states. She has also worked in program development and systems integration for individuals who have co-occurring issues. She currently serves as the Director of the Targeted Case Management Unit for the Philadelphia Behavioral Health System. In this capacity she provides administrative oversight to Intensive Case Management, Community Treatment and ACT Teams throughout the city.

Robinson, Laurie, RN

Laurie Robinson serves as the director of care coordination services for eQHealth Solutions. Her focus has been in case and disease management, quality improvement, and utilization review. She has more than 25 years experience in health care delivery. She provides leadership and management to several of the company's contracts. She successfully led one of 14 Care Transitions projects for CMS. Her team under her leadership received the Innovation in Healthcare Award by CMS. Her recent work has been in the development and implementation of care coordination services that include transitions coaching, care coordination, and software development and training.

Rubin, Bill, MA

Bill Rubin, MA, CEO of Synthesis, Inc. has 35 years experience conducting training and behavioral health evaluation studies. He is the principal developer of the Cluster-Based Planning (CBP™) system which recognizes natural subgroups or clusters of individuals whose members share common bio-psychosocial histories and lived experiences. Agencies currently use CBP to train staff, re-organize case management teams, improve ISP processes, manage service utilization, engage consumers in a recovery dialogue, and implement level of care systems. An adult with Tourette Syndrome, Mr. Rubin has received both mental health and neurological services, and at age 66, he continues his own recovery journey.

Schaefer, Melissa, B.S.

Melissa Schaefer has worked with families for the past 10 years. She has worked for Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare for 9 years and is a Transitional Youth Professional Partner. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Relationship from University of Kearney.

Shueey, Bob, B.A.

Bob Shueey graduated with honors from Hastings College in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and sociology. He has been employed by South Central Behavioral Services in Hastings Nebraska for six years and has been doing case management/community support for most of that time as well as working in their IT department. He is certified by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare as a Mental Health First Aid Trainer.

Sims, Brian, MD

Dr. Brian Sims is currently the Senior Director of Behavioral and Mental Health for Conmed Healthcare Management Inc., an organization dedicated to the treatment of county detention center inmates for 7 states. He is currently developing and implementing mental and behavioral health programs for use in the aforementioned environments. Dr. Sims received his MD from Meharry Medical College in Tennessee and did his psychiatric residency at the University of Maryland Institute of Psychiatry and Human Behavior (IPHB) in Baltimore, Maryland. He has been a consultant providing training in trauma-informed care with the National Association of State Mental Health Program Director's National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC) since 2006. A Key area of focus in his training with NTAC is on the neurological impact of trauma on the developing brain.

Smith, Douglas, M.S., M.A., M.Div

Doug Smith's academic credentials include a M.S. in community health administration from California College for Health Sciences; M.A. in counseling and human development, Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois; M.Div., pastoral counseling and theology from the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia; and a B.A. in English and Creative Writing from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

Mr. Smith has consulted with the Newberg, Oregon office of the Hazelden addiction treatment programs and the Cottonwood Residential Treatment Center in Tucson, AZ. Most of his work has been with NICU, ICU, and hospice unit staff.

Mr. Smith has personal life experience with mental illness, trauma, and deep loss. He has learned how to recover and has developed tools for others to use for honest self-assessment and to find meaning of their loss, fear, trauma, or hurt.

Snarr, Robert, MPA, LPC, NCC

Robert Snarr is the Adult Programs Manager for the Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. He has over 22 years experience in the Utah Public Mental Health System, providing direct and administrative services related to treatment and managing programs to improve the quality of life of people with mental illness and substance abuse disorders. He has successfully developed and managed programs to promote recovery in Utah. Mr. Snarr has a strong knowledge of mental health law and policy and has provided oversight and technical assistance to numerous public mental health providers to ensure consistent quality of care. He manages a variety of programs ranging from Quality of Care Programming, Community Alternative Programs, PACT, Housing, Homelessness, Case Management and Crisis Counseling.

Speck, Kate, Ph.D., MAC, LADC

Kate has 33 years experience in the field of addictions. She is Senior Research manager at the UNL Public Policy Center. Her Masters in Addiction Counseling (MAC) and PhD in CHR assist her as she teaches in graduate and undergraduate courses. She has a strong background in prevention and treatment settings as well as in substance abuse prevention/intervention, addressing addiction in families, working with pregnant and parenting women, and in training and education. She is a member of IMINT and has provided training and technical assistance nationally in the use of Motivational Interviewing since 2000.

Watson, Lee Ann, Ph.D.

Lee Ann Watson, Ph.D., C.R.C., L.P.C.-S. is the Associate Director at the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board, the government agency mandated to assess, plan, fund, evaluate and monitor the County's behavioral health system. Lee Ann Watson has over 20 years of experience working in community mental health; particularly adult case management services. Lee Ann has supervised case management services, club house psychosocial programs, peer services and vocational services. In her current position, Lee Ann is responsible for grant writing and monitoring, program assessment, planning and evaluation for the County's behavioral health system. Lee Ann Watson has a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Counseling and is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.

Weber, John

John Weber delivers counseling and testing services; is a care coordinator for the Ryan White Part B program, CUSOC, and HCV care management. He is a tenacious advocate for recovery within the agency. He has been a constant support to those seeking long-term recovery. John has a history of advocating for both 12-Step as well as harm reduction practices. These concepts are used in conjunction with each other, as harm reduction is a part of the continuum to long-term recovery. John is well trusted by clients in all programs, discussing hard truths with necessary compassion.

Wilkinson, David, BSW

Dave has over 31 years experience in the behavioral health field. He was a direct service Case Manager from 1980 – 1985. In 1985 he became the department supervisor. Central Montgomery MH/MR Center Case Management supports over 1000 people a year. The Case Management department employs 60 staff providing service to children through older adults in the Norristown Pennsylvania area. Dave is the board president of a local collaborative called the Interagency Council of Norristown and is a board member of NACM. Dave has had the opportunity to present at past Pennsylvania State Case Management conferences as well as at NACM conferences since 1994.

Wise, Sharon. M.H.S.

Sharon Wise was diagnosed with a mental illness at a young age and hospitalized for the first time at the age of nine. Following over thirty institutions and hospitalizations, many of them by force, including being secluded and restrained, she has learned to use the trauma she suffered as learning and teaching tool. She is now an advocate for others who've had similar experiences.

Sharon goes around the country teaching and training peers, government officials and the community about Trauma informed care, sharing her experience, strength and hope. She also is an independent filmmaker and documentarian. Sharon is an outstanding artist and uses her art to create vibrant colored self-portraits that illustrate her traumatic experiences and African American heritage.

As a performing artist she uses the butterfly to tell her story and is also an excellent motivational and keynote speaker. Most recently she received a national VOICE Award in Los Angeles taking her place with movie stars and others recognized for their contributions in trauma informed care and mental health. In addition to her advocacy she designed a social inclusion booklet for her peers that display options of 'free places' to go for entertainment, training and relaxation.

