



Presenter Biographies
County Behavioral Health Fiscal Leadership Institute
May 19-20, 2015

Karen Baylor PhD, LMFT, was appointed as the Deputy Director of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders for the Department of Health Care Services on June 12, 2013. She previously was the Behavioral Health Administrator for the County of San Luis Obispo for the past eight years. During her time in San Luis Obispo County, she served as President of the California Mental Health Directors Association during 2012. She also served as a Board Officer for the California Mental Health Services Authority from 2010 to 2013. Her previous work experience was with a variety of private, non-profits organizations providing children's mental health services. She has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

Molly Brassil is the Director of Public Policy with the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA), which represents public mental health and substance use disorder programs in counties throughout California. Ms. Brassil has been a health care policy analyst and advocate since 2005 and has worked in the areas of legislative, administrative, and regulatory affairs with a strong focus on delivery system improvement in the Medi-Cal Program. Before joining CBHDA in 2011, Ms. Brassil held the position of Deputy Director, Regulatory Affairs with the California Primary Care Association (CPCA), the trade association representing over 1000 community clinics and health centers in California. Before entering the world of health policy, Ms. Brassil spent a number of years working directly with vulnerable populations as a direct service provider, including working in a women's health-focused community clinic, a homeless youth outreach program and with the Sacramento County Department of Mental Health. Ms. Brassil has a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara and received her Master of Social Work from Sacramento State University.

Beth Conley is the Vice President, Government and Nonprofit Relations for the Kiely Group (KGI). She brings the ability to assess issues from the balcony, to create opportunities by networking resources, and to bring stakeholders together in collaborative efforts. Beth has worked for the KGI for four years. Her work includes projects with California Network of Mental Health Clients, Cal-Neva Community Action Partnership, San Diego County, CalMHSA, Maravilla Foundation, HumPAL (Partnership between RCAA and Humboldt County Public Health), and University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning, and Development. She was faculty on the Sierra Health Foundation Health Leadership Program. Ms. Conley specializes in mapping and analyzing organizational and personal networks for KGI's Rel8™ program. .

Additionally, she coordinates the technical use of KGI's proprietary narrative analysis software and oversees most of the day-to-day functions of the organization.

Ms. Conley received her MPA from the University of Southern California (USC). While at USC (both as a graduate student and as a consultant after graduating), she coordinated leadership programs for health care executives and mental health directors. She did her undergraduate work at Butler University in Indianapolis. Her other work experience includes project management on a software development project, and technology support for small businesses.

Thad Dickson is President and CEO of Xpio Health, a boutique healthcare technology company founded in 2010 around a simple objective; to provide transformational technology services and solutions to behavioral healthcare organizations. Mr. Dickson is a nationally respected speaker on the subject of Meaningful Use and its role in behavioral health, and works with a variety of EHR systems and applications related to HIE, patient portals, service delivery, billing and financial, and data analytics. Mr. Dickson did his undergraduate work in psychology and literature, holds several Microsoft Technology certifications, and is a Project Management Professional, a member of HIMSS and a Certified Health Information Management Specialist, as well as a member of ISACA, NAMI, and the National Council for Behavioral Health.

Under Thad's leadership, Xpio Health has helped behavioral health organizations and hospitals bring in nearly \$20 Million dollars of federal incentives related to Meaningful Use. Xpio Health does business in over 12 States, and has an excellent track record of delivering EHR implementations that work, and analytics solutions that transform data into information. Xpio Health also has a growing portfolio of software solutions and meaningful use products focused on creating exceptional value for mental health organizations and the clients they serve, and a growing team of consultants that bring unique talent, EHR specific expertise, Jedi-like crystal report writing skills, and a broad and deep range of software and technology know-how under one roof.

And as the healthcare landscape shifts around us, Xpio Health continues to explore and develop new and better technologies, disrupt and innovate along with their clients, and strives to contribute to the mission and vision of improving the health and healthcare, well-being, and integrity of our communities.

Michael R. Geiss is the founder of Geiss Consulting, a Sacramento-based management consulting firm. He has over twenty-five years' experience providing services to public sector agencies. Prior to establishing Geiss Consulting, he had over nine years management consulting experience with NewPoint Group and seven years with Ernst & Young. He specializes in financial and economic analyses, business process improvement and operations analyses. Mr. Geiss has managed and participated in over one-hundred separate engagements for various State of California and other government entities over the last twenty-five years, including more than twenty projects for the California Department of Mental Health, numerous projects for more than 25 county mental health agencies in California, and various projects for the California Mental Health Directors' Association and the California Institute for Mental Health.

Dale Jarvis is the founder of Dale Jarvis and Associates LLC, a Seattle-based consulting firm. Mr. Jarvis has extensive experience helping health plans and healthcare providers redesign their

organizations to achieve better health for the populations they serve, better care for individuals, and reduced costs. He has contributed articles to publications and is a co-author of two books on healthcare system redesign. Mr. Jarvis has been a certified public accountant in the State of Washington and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants since 1982.

Currently Mr. Jarvis is focusing on healthcare reform to help ensure the needs of persons with mental health and substance use disorders are addressed as reform unfolds. This includes working with states, health plans, regional authorities, and at a national level to develop strategies that align the mental health and substance use safety net systems with general healthcare reform efforts.

Sandra Naylor Goodwin is the founding President and CEO of CIBHS, and has 30 years of professional experience in the behavioral health field. This experience includes administration, treatment, service methodologies, planning and policy development at the county and state levels. Dr. Goodwin is currently developing strategies for implementation of healthcare reform as it applies to behavioral health. This body of work includes focus on the bi-directional integration of mental health, substance use and primary healthcare. Over the last several years CIBHS has been responsible for policy development, training and technical assistance to support the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63), which California voters passed in November 2004. The MHSA focuses on transformation of mental health services, by concentrating on recovery, resiliency, cultural competency, and reduction of disparities. As principal consultant to the Assembly Health Committee of the California Legislature, Dr. Goodwin was influential in development of several pieces of fiscal and program reform legislation, including mental health realignment, Medi-Cal consolidation, the California Mental Health Master Plan, and California compliance with the ADA. Dr. Goodwin previously was a practicing clinician and director of mental health and alcohol and drug abuse for Placer County. She holds a B.A. degree from California State University, Long Beach; an MSW degree from West Virginia University; and a Ph.D. degree in clinical psychology from the Professional School of Psychology.

Don Kingdon is currently the Director of Mental Health Policy for Harbage Consulting and a consultant for the County Behavioral Health Directors Association. Previously Dr. Kingdon was the Director of Shasta County Mental Health for five years, the Shasta County Mental Health Deputy Director of Clinical Services for four years, the Ventura County Mental Health Chief of Child and Adolescent Services for eight years, and the Clinical Director of the North Hollywood Dubnoff Center for Child Development for ten years. Dr. Kingdon has practiced in the mental health field since 1979, first receiving a Marriage Family Therapy License in 1979, a Ph.D. from International College in 1984, and his license as a Clinical Psychologist in 1989. Dr. Kingdon is very committed to assuring that the treatment of mental illness receives the attention and investment necessary to promote healing and recovery.

Robert E. Oakes, J.D., M.B.A. has over 20 years of experience in government and advocacy, currently as the Executive Director of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA), a non-profit advocacy association representing the county behavioral

health programs in each of California's 58 counties. From 2004 to 2013 he served as the Vice President and General Counsel for the Association of Independent California Colleges (AICCU). From 1986 through 2010 he was an adjunct faculty member at McGeorge School of Law, where he taught Alternative Dispute Resolution and Legal Research and Writing, and team-taught other courses in advocacy and public agency law. He has also taught Business Law and Negotiation & Conflict Management courses at CSU-Sacramento. He served as the Regional Director of the Governor's San Francisco Bay Area Office, and has worked for the Santa Barbara Superior Court, the City and County of San Francisco, and U.S. Congressman Robert T. Matsui. Mr. Oakes earned his undergraduate degree from the University of the Pacific, his law degree from Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, and his MBA from CSU-Sacramento.

Noel O'Neill is a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist (LMFT) who practiced direct services for 15 years. He has been a Mental Health administrator for the past 15 years, serving as the Behavioral Health Director for Trinity County for the last seven years. Mr. O'Neill is currently a co-chair of the CBHDA Small County Committee and a member of the CBHDA Executive Team. Noel also is an active member of the California Mental Health Planning Council appointed by CBHDA.

Marlies L. Perez is the Division Chief over the Substance Use Disorder Compliance Division within the Department of Health Care Services. Ms. Perez oversees the licensing and certification functions, monitoring, and complaints for Driving Under the Influence Programs, Narcotic Treatment Programs, and outpatient and residential providers. The Division also ensures compliance with the statewide criminal justice treatment programs and counselor certification. Ms. Perez has worked in the substance abuse treatment field for thirteen years; since the inception of Proposition 36. Her other experience includes serving as a VISTA Volunteer, developing at-risk youth, president of a non-profit service organization, authoring fiction novels and service learning. Ms. Perez has a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and a Master's degree in Organizational Management.

Thomas Renfree is the new Deputy Director of Substance Use Disorder Services for the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA) as of July 1st of 2014. As the statewide advocacy association representing the behavioral health directors from all of California's counties, CBHDA was formed from the recent merger of the California Mental Health Directors Association and the County Alcohol & Drug Program Administrators Association of California (CADPAAC). Prior to his current position, for almost fourteen years Tom worked for and represented CADPAAC, first as a legislative advocate, and from 2006 – 2014 as Executive Director of the association. In this role Tom was active in statewide efforts to increase local government funding and support for both adult and adolescent alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment services.

Donna M. Wigand, LCSW, is a consultant to the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS). Prior to joining CIBHS as a consultant last year, Ms. Wigand served for 33 years in mental health services. She was employed for more than six years as a licensed clinical social worker in both San Diego private and public sectors prior to accepting the position of

Deputy Director of Behavioral Health in Imperial County in 1986. In 1988, she became the Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse for Fresno County. With a staff of more than 400 employees, she successfully steered the County's Mental Health Department through its implementation of managed care for inpatient mental health services for Medi-Cal recipients. She was also responsible for the department's conversion to the "Rehabilitation Option" and she planned, helped design, and implemented a new Crisis Intervention Unit. In 1996, she accepted the position of Mental Health Director for Contra Costa County. She managed the implementation of outpatient managed care, enabling the County's mental health system to become the Medi-Cal administrator for all mental health services in the County, including the private sector. She also led the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act, which was passed by the voters as Proposition 63 in 2004.

During her tenure in public mental health, Ms. Wigand was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA) in 1995 and Vice-President in 1996. She chaired several of the CMHDA committees including its Forensic Task Force, Legislative Committee, and the Financial Services Committee. She was also a member of the CMHDA Governing board.

Jairo Wilches: After struggling with personal and family behavioral health issues and going through severe crises, Mr. Wilches began recovery with the help of county mental health services. He works with San Mateo County's Office of Consumer & Family Affairs as Consumer Liaison and Behavioral Health Employee Wellness Champion. He practices meditation, conscious dancing, body work and photography, is a member of the California Mental Health & Spirituality Initiative Steering Committee, and has Bachelor's degrees in journalism and fine arts.