

Tianna D. Nelson, PhD, LMFT, is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who has been working for Santa Clara County for over 30 years. She completed graduate work in the Administration of Justice and Counseling Psychology, receiving degrees from UC Berkeley, San Jose State University, and Santa Clara University. Tianna completed her doctoral work in Human and Organizational Development at Fielding Graduate University, with an emphasis in adolescent development and systems theory. She has worked extensively with adolescents and their families in the areas of development, substance use, neurocognitive, and behavioral co-occurring problems. Her work history includes co-occurring care in the adult correctional system, the juvenile justice system, the state prison system, alternative placements for youth, and private practice. In 2014, her efforts transitioned to focusing on Quality Assurance and Improvement. Tianna has piloted, developed, and maintained programs for “at risk youth,” and won both county (Glen Hoffman and Unsung Hero) and state awards (Portrait of Success), as well as Congressional and County Supervisor Commendations. She has trained Congressman Honda’s staff in crisis intervention, and most recently, was invited as a national expert to Washington DC by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency and the American Institute for Research to consult among the leading experts in the field of Juvenile Drug Court Research and Practice. Tianna currently is a Clinical Standards Coordinator for Santa Clara County’s Behavioral Health Substance Use Treatment Services, Quality Improvement and Data Support Division.

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