

### Speaker Biographies

**Art Martinez, PhD**, a member of the Chumash Nation, brings a strong melding of professional and traditional knowledge. He received his Doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from International College in Los Angeles, CA and a Master's Degree, Bachelor's degree and a special emphasis credential in Native Studies from the CA State Universities Humboldt and Sonoma. Dr. Martinez has over 35 years of experience in focused delivery of clinical and forensic services to children/families surviving the effects of child abuse and other forms of trauma. As a national consultant to DHHS, Dr. Martinez served as a technical expert for the regulation, development, evaluation and education to tribal services needs. He aided in the development of initiatives for child sexual abuse treatment, substance abuse prevention and treatment, adolescent treatment centers, and 638 tribal contracting processes. Dr. Martinez served as a Clinton administration appointee on the National Advisory Councils for SAMHSA and the Centers for Mental Health Services. Dr. Martinez has served in a technical expert capacity to assist governmental agencies and localities in bringing definition, process and fruition to the overall mission to raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of diverse families and children.

**Barbara Aragon, MSW**, is Laguna Pueblo and draws from over 30 years of experience working in Native communities and leadership in the continental United States, the U.S. Territories and in the Pacific Basin. In her years of working on social issues with Native American communities, Ms. Aragon has administered trainings and technical assistance; taught cultural competency and social work practice; worked with tribes, universities, federal agencies, and organizations on developing ways to improve community-based programs. Her passion is teaching story telling and digital storytelling as an culturally-appropriate approach to healing and empowerment and empowerment within Native American communities.

**Pastor Brandon Parks, LMFT**, graduated from Loyola Marymount University in 2004 with his BA, double majoring in Psychology and Theology. He later graduated from Antioch University Los Angeles in 2007 with his Masters of Clinical Psychology having a Child Studies specialization. Brandon is an ordained Pastor and licensed minister with Bible Enrichment Fellowship International Church, and currently serves as the minister over Bible Enrichment's Frontline youth ministry, facilitating such programs as True Love is willing to Wait Abstinence program, REACH a youth leadership and business seminar, as well as, teaching Frontline Sunday Morning Youth Service. He is also an instructor for Bible Enrichment's Christian Training and Discipleship Program. Brandon is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. He initially worked in the Full Service Partnership program for Children (6-15) and Transitional Age Youth (16-25) treating young adults, children and adolescents that been through various systems (child welfare and legal) and living with serious mental illness such as Schizophrenia, Bipolar Depression, PTSD and suicidal behaviors to assist them in integrating into the community. Brandon also facilitated the Incredible Years parenting program for parents and children, as well as, A.R.T (anger reduction training) groups for teens in several elementary and middle schools. Brandon recently opened his own private practice in Fountain Valley. He is happily married to his wife Shawnte Parks for five years.

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**Carlos Rivera** is Pomo Indian and Mexican. He is enrolled with the Sherwood Hill Valley Band of Pomo Indians. He is thirty-four years-old and a father of three beautiful children. Mr. Rivera became a ward of the court at the age of 13 and spent his teenage years “running” or incarcerated. He wanted a different life for his children and moved to Sacramento in 1998 to escape the lifestyle of drug and alcohol abuse. With an AA Degree in Chemical Dependency Studies, Mr. Rivera has over 10 years of Wellbriety and he continues to strive to make a difference in Native Communities as a Substance Abuse Counselor at the Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc. and a training facilitator at White Bison Inc. In addition to being an active member of the Native American Community through drumming, fire keeping, and volunteer work; Mr. Rivera also serves as a board member for the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency State Committee.

**Cheryl Branch** is the Executive Director of Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches and holds an M.S. in Community Economic Development. For ten years, Cheryl served as an appointed Los Angeles County Health Commissioner and Alcohol Commissioner while concurrently supervising a large community-based integrated outpatient substance abuse clinic, homeless and mental health program in South LA. Cheryl teaches continuing education classes part-time for UCLA-Integrated Substance Abuse Program.

**Dennis Murata, MSW**, is a Deputy Director for the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (DMH). He directs the Program Support Bureau, which includes the following areas of responsibility:

- Oversight of Mental Health Services Act Programs
- Training (including Workforce Education and Training)
- Quality Improvement
- Cultural Competency
- Quality Assurance (including Medi-Cal Certification)
- Empowerment and Advocacy

Born and raised in the Boyle Heights community of the City of Los Angeles, he feels fortunate to have experienced and lived in an ethnically diverse community and being exposed to the turbulent but exciting period of 1960's and 1970's. Dennis grew up in a household of working class parents who were interned during World War II along with more than 100,000 Americans of Japanese Descent.

Dennis believes that his “community” exposed him to many things and provided him with a foundation that is instilled in him to this day -- a multi-cultural perspective with an appreciation for diversity; respect for others; the importance of family, friends, and peers; and to never forget one's roots.

He began his career in mental health 39 years ago as a volunteer at Resthaven Community Mental Health Center, which was the County's first Community Mental Health Center. He dropped out of college early in his sophomore year to work as a paraprofessional at several private non-profit community mental health agencies and psychiatric hospitals for 9 years prior to returning to college.

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In 1984, Dennis graduated from the UCLA School of Social Welfare and started his career in public mental health as a Psychiatric Social Worker for the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health. During his 29 years in public mental health, he has worked in a variety of program and administrative areas. He has managed several high priority mental health projects and programs, co-authored articles related to public mental health in various journals, and received numerous honors and certificates for his achievements from his Department, other County Departments, and community based groups (e.g., UCLA Social Work Alumnus of the Year, Manager of the Year 2002, County Productivity Awards, etc.)

**Doretha Williams-Flournoy, MS**, has over 25 years experience implementing community based mental health and healthcare services, program planning and administration, and public policy. Currently she serves as the Chief Operating Officer for the California Institute for Mental Health. As a Chief Operating Officer and member of the executive management team her portfolio includes the provision of statewide technical assistance and training programs focused on Prevention and Early Intervention, Reducing Disparities, and Integration of Primary Care and Behavioral Health.

**Gigi Crowder, LE**, is an Ethnic Services Manager for Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services has worked in the mental health field for the last 18 years, primarily focusing on employment and supported education. She began her career as a Job Coach and quickly promoted to a Job Developer at Rubicon Programs Inc. in Richmond CA. It was there she became keenly aware of the many barriers facing underserved and inappropriately served individuals with psychiatric challenges. She later moved back to Alameda County and worked for Bay Area Community Services and became the founder of their employment program. Gigi is has worked for Alameda County BHCS for the past 5 years and became the Ethnic Services Manager in May 2007. Gigi is now in a position to advocate for changes that can better address disparities facing mental health consumers of all ethnic backgrounds. Gigi planned a key role in Primary and Early Intervention planning and looks forward to playing a significant role in the implementation of new PEI funded programs in Alameda County.

**Herbert K. Hatanaka, DSW**, executive director, Special Service for Groups (SSG), Adjunct Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Southern California SSG has been a leading AANHPI mental health provider in Los Angeles since 1987. SSG includes the Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Centers, a network of API outpatient clinics serving over 2500 API consumers annually. Dr. Hatanaka is the Chairperson of A3PCON Mental Health Committee, which is the chief advocating body for API mental health in Los Angeles.

**Heriberto (Beto) Escamilla Morales, PhD**, is originally from Cadereyta Jimenez, Nuevo Leon Mexico. He was raised in Houston Texas until moving with his wife and three children to San Diego in 1984. After a mid-course career change from electrical engineering, he received his doctorate in Clinical Psychology

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from the California School of Professional Psychology-San Diego Campus in 1993. Dr. Escamilla delivered direct clinical services through several community-based organizations and health centers in the San Diego including Hanbleceya (a residential treatment center for Schizophrenics), the San Ysidro Health System, San Diego City College, Catholic Charities, and the Logan Heights Family Health Center.

In addition to professional clinical practice, Dr. Escamilla has taught Psychology and Chicano History classes at San Diego City College and United States University. These classes include General, Abnormal and Developmental Psychology, as well as Personality Theory and Statistics for the Social Sciences. From 1994 to 2011, he worked for Philliber Research Associates, a nationally recognized evaluation firm. As part of this work, he has implemented engagement and mobilization activities in over 30 communities throughout the United States. In addition to community organizing, Dr. Escamilla has participated in the evaluation of several community and school-based, health, crime and teen pregnancy prevention initiatives. Dr. Escamilla has been part of multi-disciplinary teams evaluating multi-site and component initiatives such as the Border Health Initiative, the Juvenile Crime Prevention Project, the Male Involvement Program, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative, the Partnership for the Public's Health, the California First Five Initiative, and the Community Action to Fight Asthma Initiative. Dr. Escamilla has a maintained lifelong interest in non-western spiritual and religious traditions including Yoga, Meditation, Prayer and Shamanism. Since 2004, this interest has grown into more active efforts to integrate traditional healing into mainstream psychological practice. Dr. Escamilla is currently a teaching psychology at United States University, a member of the Center for Integrative Psychology of Alliant University, the National Compadres Network, and since 2010 as an independent consultant for Ontrack providing technical assistance on cultural competency.

**Jerry Tello** comes from a family of Mexican, Texan roots and was raised in south central Los Angeles. He is an internationally recognized expert in the areas of fatherhood, family strengthening, community peace and mobilization and culturally based violence prevention/intervention issues. Over the last 30 thirty years, Mr. Tello has dedicated his efforts to preventing and healing the pain of relationship/community violence, teen pregnancy, fatherless-ness and internalized oppression by speaking to over half a million people and training 1000's of facilitators across the nation to address these issues. He is co-founder of the National Compadres Network (established in 1988) and the present Director of the National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute.

Mr. Tello has motivated, trained and mentored thousands of individuals, organizations and community groups in the various curriculum (see website [jerrytello.com](http://jerrytello.com)) that he has authored addressing the issues of Fatherhood, Male "Rites of Passage," relationship and gang violence prevention, teen fatherhood, pregnancy prevention, family strengthening, fatherhood literacy and community peace.

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He served as a principal consultant for Scholastic Books on International Bilingual Literacy curriculum focused at reaching low-income families, is the author “ A Fathers Love”, a series of children’s books, coeditor of Family Violence and Men of Color and a series of motivational CD’s. He has appeared in Time, Newsweek, Latina and Lowrider magazines and has received many major awards including the Presidential Crime Victims Service award, presented by President Bill Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno, two California Governor’s Awards for his violence prevention and intervention advocacy work and the Ambassador of Peace award from Rotary International.

As part of his continued work on peace, healing and violence prevention he is presently working in numerous communities integrating a trauma/healing informed approach to violence prevention. In collaboration with the American G.I. Forum, Mr. Tello is part of an effort of providing Domestic Violence awareness presentations and support services to Iraq, Afghanistan and Persian Gulf veterans and their spouses. Presently, He is also directs the Sacred Circles Center in Whittier, California and is a member of the Sacred Circles performance group, a group dedicated to community peace and healing. He is the proud father of three children, Marcos, Renee, Emilio and grandfather of Amara.

**Jesse Herrera, LCSW**, graduated from the USC School of Social Work in 1974. He is bilingual/bicultural and has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 1976. He worked in clinical and management positions in non-profit community based organizations and public mental health agencies for over 35 years. His positions with El Centro Community Mental Health Center (East Los Angeles), LA County Mental Health, Portals House and the Behavioral Health Division of the Monterey County Health Department provided him opportunities to advocate for integration of cultural and linguistic competence coupled with expansion of community guided services for unserved, underserved communities. He has served on various local, state and national committees focused on elimination of disparities in access to services and development of a more diverse behavioral health professional workforce.

Jesse is currently a member of Latino Social Workers of Monterey County, the Mental Health Commission of Monterey County and an Elder in La Cultura Cura Institute. Jesse has been married to Paula for over 47 years, raising 3 children and currently lives in Salinas in retirement.

**Lian Cheun, MPA**, is a 1.5 generation refugee from Oakland, CA. She has spent over a decade working in low-income communities of color. Lian started out as a youth organizer on the Kids First! Campaign and has since worked for funding for youth programs, fought for educational and health justice, volunteered and trained for numerous GOTV efforts with the Alameda County Labor Council, and most recently fought for workers’ rights regionally and internationally. In 2007, Lian helped Migrant Forum in Asia organize the very first regional, migrant domestic workers’ assembly in Asia. She was also the former director of the Movement Activist Apprenticeship Program (MAAP) at the Center for Third World Organizing (CTWO).

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**Lillian Bando, JD, MSW**, has worked in the Mental Health field for decades. Before working as a clinician, Ms. Bando was a lawyer, receiving her Juris Doctorate from UCLA in 1985. Ms. Bando has a wealth of experience working with the Asian Pacific Islander communities in Southern California. Before joining Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health where she is currently the Mental Health Clinician District Chief, she worked in many capacities from community organizer to grant writer, and Mental Health Analyst. She has worked in various agencies, non-profits to government.

Ms. Bando received her Masters in Social Work from UCLA and studied Asian Studies as an undergrad at UC Berkeley.

**Mariko Kahn, LMFT**, has a wealth of knowledge and experience working with diverse Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities. Kahn earned her Bachelor of Science in Cultural Anthropology from the University of California, Riverside and a Masters of Art in Clinical Psychology from Antioch University.

Kahn is the Executive Director of Pacific Asian Counseling Services (PACS), a non-profit that provides mental health services to the severely and chronically mentally ill in Los Angeles County. PACS is well-known for its culturally and linguistically sensitive services with expertise working with API refugee and immigrant populations. The agency's staff has language capacity in 12 API languages as well as Spanish.

As the immediate past president and current Treasurer of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), she is proud of her work as a Board member. It allows her to advocate for the needs of APIs as well as opportunities to collaborate with other agencies. In addition, she is an active board officer of Cambodia Town, Inc. in Long Beach since 2008. Her work with the organization has enriched her understanding of this emerging API population and resulted in increased funding to improve the mental health and living conditions of Cambodians in Long Beach.

She has received several awards including: "2014 Woman of the Year" for the Commission on Women, awarded by Supervisor Don Knabe, 4<sup>th</sup> District; "Champion of Cambodia Town Award" from the City of Long Beach in recognition of her dedication in the creation of "Cambodia Town," and the President's Undergraduate Fellowship from the University of California, Riverside which allowed her to study Caribe Indians in the Orinoco, Venezuela.

Kahn is often requested as a keynote speaker for API student organizations, presents on many panels and testifies at the County and State level on issues such as API disparity and cultural competency for ethnic minorities in the public mental health system. Kahn was appointed to the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's Systems Leadership Team in 2010 by the DMH Director. This group oversees the implementation and evaluation of the Mental Health Service Act in Los Angeles County.

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**Oswaldo “Ozzie” Cruz**, for over fifteen years Mr. Cruz primary focus has been working within the Latino community with at risk youth in the greater Los Angeles area. He has done so in many settings to include, public and charter schools, community centers, juvenile detention centers, probation and California’s Youth Authority Department of Corrections.

His continues work involves addressing the issues of familial-community violence, gang reduction, teen pregnancy prevention, male responsibility, reproductive health education, and fatherhood.

He does so under the philosophy that young men need other men and young women need women, their families, and communities to care for, assist, heal, guide and successfully prepare them for true adulthood.

Mr. Cruz currently conducts a fatherhood program in Los Angeles where he works with teen fathers who are attending high school or are expectant fathers. His belief is that father-specific programs that build on resiliency and provide the necessary resources are particularly important to aid in the development of pro-fathering attitudes and values that nurture healthy physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual connections. By providing and supporting this approach men have demonstrated that when fathers are given the opportunity to be present in the lives of their children, that men, fathers are willing and able to be nurturing, caring, respectful partners and loving fathers.

As a senior training and program specialist with the National Compadres Network Mr. Cruz co-trains other professionals on the Joven Noble curriculum. Created by Jerry Tello, the Joven Noble (Noble Young Men) is an evidence based program that provides youth development, focused on male responsibility & young women’s empowerment, providing life skills, talking circles, cultural identity, and youth leadership. The Joven Noble provides gender focused cultural teachings on developing a strong self-esteem, having Palabra (word), anger management, communication skills, abstinence, gang & violence prevention, and drug/alcohol prevention.

Mr. Cruz also sits on the board of the Center for Family Policy and Practice. Through these efforts and the many more roles he is privileged to carry out he hopes to enhance the quality of life of young men fathers and their families.

**Pisey Sok, MFT**, is a mental health clinician at Pacific Asian Counseling Services (PACS) in Long Beach, CA. He works primarily in the Integrated Network for Cambodians (INC) Program which is funded by the MHS Innovation Plan. Sok’s bilingual and bicultural background has been invaluable in effectively and sensitively engaging the enrolled Cambodian clients at all the key levels of true cultural competency.

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He received his M.S. from Fuller Graduate School of Psychology for an MFT as well as a Masters of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary and a B.A. in Biblical Studies. As the son of an ajah in a Cambodian temple in Oregon, he understands the role of spirituality in the Cambodian culture while his training in the Christian ministry has added to his depth of knowledge about religion and faith. Early in his career, he expanded his multi-cultural experiences as a Spiritual Formation coordinator in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

Sok also has experience working with adolescents in the San Gabriel Unified School District while training as an MFT, served as a pastoral intern at the Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles, and was a youth volunteer at the AADAP Olympic Academy mentoring students with substance abuse issues.

Sok's wealth of life experience has given him an appreciation for cultural diversity, acceptance of cultural and religious differences and a belief in the need to deal with the issues of trauma and forgiveness.

**Refujio "Cuco" Rodriguez Rodriguez, MA**, has 18 years of diverse social service experience. Refujio brings a unique set of skills and insight to his work. His diverse background in direct service, program implementation, and program management are what informs his unique perspectives in mental health and human services.

In his current position as Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Division Chief for Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) for Santa Barbara County, Mr. Rodriguez oversees and manages the full range of operational functions for MHSA including implementation and oversight of MHSA Services. Additionally, he is also responsible for providing leadership and oversight of cultural competence requirements for ADMHS.

Prior to working at ADMHS, Refujio worked in various positions for several nonprofit agencies. Early in his career, Mr. Rodriguez co-founded a nationally recognized program providing services to high risk adolescent fathers. The success of this program led to the launching of several other program initiatives focusing on services for men of all ages, including father engagement programs in early childhood education and gang intervention programs for Latino Youth. Mr. Rodriguez also developed, implemented, and managed mental health programs and services for vulnerable youth and families in Santa Barbara County.

Mr. Rodriguez is a husband to Nelda Olvera-Rodriguez and father to Fabian Ollin and Yazmin Metztl. Mr. Rodriguez is a graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

**Robert "Bobby" Verdugo** is Senior Program and Training Specialist with the National Compadres Network, whose mission is to strengthen, rebalance, and/or redevelop the traditional "Compadre" extended family system. It's by this process that we encourage and support the positive involvement of Latino males as fathers, sons, grandfathers, brothers, compadres, partners, and mentors in their families and community.

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Born, raised, and still living in the East Los Angeles area, Mr. Verdugo attended UCLA and graduated from California State University at Los Angeles with a degree in Social Work. and is part of a statewide effort to support a California Fatherhood Initiative to promote the positive involvement of Chicano/Latino males in the lives of their families, community, and society. Much of the work Bobby and his team dealt with was healing and nurturing the safety and health of the families. This always included their physical, their emotional, their spiritual and their mental health.

Because of his work with fathers and families, Mr. Verdugo has been invited to speak at symposiums and conferences across the country, and was invited to participate in the 2003 International Fatherhood Summit in Oxford, England. In October 2010 he was also invited to, and attended, a special event commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the White House.

Bobby Verdugo was a leader of the historic 1968 high school walkouts of East Los Angeles. He is featured in the critically acclaimed documentary CHICANO- The History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement, which aired on PBS, and he was portrayed in the HBO movie Walkout, a docudrama about the 1968 walkouts. On May 20, 2011 Mr. Verdugo delivered the keynote speech for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Latino Recognition Ceremony (Raza Graduation) at the University of Notre Dame.

He is social worker, an activist, and a public speaker. He is also a family man, married to his high school sweetheart, Yoli, who is also portrayed in 'Walkout', and is the proud father of two daughters, Monica and Maricela.

**Rong Be** is a case manager in the Integrated Network for Cambodians (INC) at Pacific Asian Counseling Services. He graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from the Battambang University, Cambodia and also holds an A.S. degree in computer technology from Heald College. Be is an acknowledged master of mindful meditation in the Buddhist tradition with experience in non-violent practices. He is multilingual in Khmer, Vietnamese and English. As an Ajah in Wat Sonsam Kusal, he has been invaluable in shaping the integration of spiritual healing practices for the INC Program.

**Tamitra Clark, PsyD**, a native of the San Gabriel Valley (Los Angeles County), discovered and developed her passion for an historically underserved population with a great need for support and guidance - single African American women, a passion instilled through spiritual upbringing and family values.

Dr. Clark's personal story unfolded as a 13-year-old peer counselor with Planned Parenthood of Pasadena and unlocked a search for and development of emotional wellness, decision-making and social support life skills. Like many young African American undergraduates living away from home, she experienced a brief romantic relationship that resulted in pregnancy and moving back home to complete the BA degree as a single mother. She returned to social service work as a project coordinator with the Pasadena Police Department's African-American male mentor program and assisted single mothers to identify and utilize community resources for critical family support. In 1999, she was diagnosed with an auto-immune condition.

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Biblical principles anchored positive affirmations and self-care coping techniques to support physical healing and minimize stressors. These personal experiences and challenges defined a life's work to teach self-care and pursue a doctorate degree in psychology. Today, she is a 15-year veteran in the social service and mental health fields as a seasoned coach, consultant, program developer, community and personal rights advocate.

After receiving a clinical PsyD in multicultural community clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology, she joined the Pasadena Birthing Project as an advisory board member and engaged in the organization's 10th anniversary strategic plan and campaign for improving Black infant health and addressing the disparities in poor birth outcomes. Her career deepened with a specialty in infant mental health with the LA County Department of Mental Health. She continued the campaign for self-care and provided foster and kinship caregivers with coping mechanisms and resources to minimize their stress while caring for drug-exposed infants and difficult young children.

Dr. Clark reteamed with iDREAM for Racial Health Equity (formerly the Pasadena Birthing Project) as a Community Health Advocate Leader. During the fall 2013, she worked closely with a team of Pepperdine University undergraduate students enrolled in a Family Therapy course and led the iDREAM collaboration of its first edition of a psychosocial interactive workbook on stress and coping for African-American women. This accomplishment is a continuum to serve as a voice for mind, body and soul wellness for African-American women across the lifespan. Her community service and leadership includes developing life skills for transitioned and emancipated foster youth; research on African American women cervical cancer survivors; coaching clergy enrolled in masters and doctoral study in multicultural community clinical psychology; and loss and grief ministry and at-risk youth career outreach at her church.

**Terry S. Gock, PhD, MPA**, is the Director of the Asian Pacific Family Center (APFC) of Pacific Clinics in Los Angeles County. In addition to offering a continuum of culturally competent outpatient mental health services, APFC has been awarded all eleven competitive federal demonstration and program evaluation enhancement grants that he has submitted to SAMHSA. These grants have helped APFC develop five preventive intervention programs that are now recognized as "Community Defined Evidence (CDE)" programs by the California Institute for Mental Health (CiMH) and as "Category 4 Community-Defined Promising Programs" by API-CRDP. They include substance abuse and gang/violence prevention, as well as bicultural parenting and positive youth development, programs for different Asian immigrant populations. Besides his over 30 years of experience in developing and implementing API mental health and behavioral healthcare services, Dr. Gock is also a clinical and forensic psychologist who has been active in many national professional and community advocacy organizations. For example, he has previously served on the Executive Board of the National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse, Inc. (NAPAFSA), and is a current Board member of the National Asian American and Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA). In addition, he has served on the policy-making Council of Representatives of the American Psychological Association (APA), and is a Past President of

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APA Division 44 (Society for the Psychological Study of LGBT Issues). Dr. Gock has received a number of national and local recognitions for his professional work, including an APA Presidential Citation that, in part, honors his “lifelong devotion to multiculturalism” in psychology.

**Wade Nobles, PhD**, is a founding member of the Association of Black Psychologists and its former national President (1994-95). He is Professor Emeritus of Africana Studies and Black Psychology at San Francisco State University and the Co-founder and Executive Director of the Institute for the Advanced Study of Black Family Life and Culture, Inc., a free standing independent community-based, nonprofit Black “think-tank” and scientific, educational training and research corporation specializing in the scientific educational and cultural aspects of family life and human development. From its inception over 35 years ago, the Institute has been the leading advocate for the application of Black Psychology as a scientific discipline and behavioral health practice for working with and in the African American community.

Guided by applied Black Psychology, the Institute, under Dr. Nobles leadership has provided critical behavioral health services from culturally congruent professional in-services to manhood/womanhood youth development to whole school reform to HIV/AIDs prevention to social services staff development to enhancing the fabric of family programming for AOD prevention. Dr. Nobles is the author of over one hundred (100) articles, chapters, research reports and books; the co-author of the seminal article in Black Psychology, Voodoo or IQ: An Introduction to African Psychology; the author of Seeking the Sakhu: Foundational Writings in African Psychology, an anthology of over thirty years of African centered research and scholarship and his newest manuscript, The Island of Memes: Haiti’s Unfinished Revolution. Dr. Nobles is an internationally sought after and recognized teacher, researcher, scholar, author and trainer.

**William Rhett-Mariscal, PhD**, is the Acting Associate Director for the Health Equity Team at the California Institute for Mental Health (CIMH), Center for Multicultural Development. As the primary point person at CiMH in the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) component of California’s Mental Health Services Act, he is working to help realize the promise of PEI for addressing health disparities for a wide array of populations. Dr. Rhett-Mariscal has a rich background in social anthropology and direct clinical experience in marriage and family therapy as a bilingual/bicultural clinician and brings his experience in both fields to his work addressing disparities.