

WSADCP 2019 - Speaker Biographies

Samantha Anderson

Leading with empathy and creative problem solving have been at the forefront of Samantha's work with justice-involved persons. For nearly a decade her work has been focused on empowering others and sparking quality improvement initiatives through both direct service and management roles. Outside of gardening and reading, Samantha spends her free time volunteering with local non-profits to improve public policy initiatives often surrounding the justice-involved population.

In the unique role of legal systems liaison for United Healthcare, the opportunities to creatively collaborate with the community, criminal justice system, and internally are endless. Her work ensures members received care that supports the whole person and is person-centered as there are unique challenges the justice involved population faces. As a collaborative and innovative solution, she connected currently incarcerated members with peer support specialist to assist members in navigating their defined goals.

Samantha holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from St. Ambrose University, and a Master of Public Administration from Seattle University.

Dr. Linda Chamberlain

Dr. Chamberlain, an epidemiologist specializing in childhood exposure to violence and brain development, is the founding director of the Alaska Family Violence Prevention Project and a consultant for the Family Violence Prevention Fund. An internationally renowned keynote speaker, Dr. Chamberlain is known for her ability to translate science into practical information with diverse audiences. Her passionate belief that everyone can make a difference conveys a message of hope and opportunity. Dr. Chamberlain holds faculty appointments at the University of Alaska and Johns Hopkins University. She earned her public health degree from Yale School of Medicine and her doctorate from Johns Hopkins. Dr. Chamberlain has published extensively and is editor for the e-journal, Family Violence Prevention and Health Practice. She serves on the National Advisory Board for the Institute for Safe Families. Awards and recognition for her work include a National Kellogg Leadership Fellowship. Living on a rural homestead outside of Homer, Alaska with her husband and dog team, she has developed a highly innovative lecture series on leadership and teamwork called "Lessons from the Trail" and teaches a graduate course on public health and leadership. For her first book, Arctic Inspirations, she traveled from Alaska through the northern Canada and on to Siberia to gather stories of women starting businesses in the Arctic. She is currently working on a book on "Mushing the Mail on the Iditarod Trail."

Joe Conniff

Mr. Conniff is a post-9/11 Navy veteran, and person in long term recovery from a substance use disorder. He is a 2016 Alumni of King County's Adult Drug Diversion Court Program and began serving as a Resource Specialist and Peer Counselor in 2017 to the program's 330 participants. In 2018 he presented at King County's Recovery Conference, and has spoken to high school and college students, behavioral health professionals, and law enforcement agencies on the topics of addiction, recovery and homelessness. Over the last two years he has implemented and regularly facilitates a client-focused mutual support group, and has been integral in the construction of a comprehensive strengths-based goal plan. This plan is utilized in the later phases of KCDDC's program to empower participants through short-term goals, accountability and supportive conversations at the bench. In July of 2019, Mr. Conniff was an inaugural attendee at Mobilize Recovery in Las Vegas, a social impact initiative begun by the Facebook Community Leadership Program. He was one of 100 recovery advocates selected from 1000 applicants nationwide to receive ongoing direct advocacy and organizing training towards solutions on substance use disorder in our communities. His writing on personal lived experience in addiction and homelessness have been published in Open Recovery on Medium.

Victoria Evans

Victoria is the Molina Healthcare of Washington, Director of Behavioral Health Integration. Her work in the Behavioral and Physical Healthcare industry spans over 30 years and began with direct patient care in an array of medical and behavioral health (mental health and substance use disorder) care settings. Former positions include: Group Health Cooperative (now Kaiser), Behavioral Health Associate Director; University of WA, School of Social Work, Faculty/Instructor; CARF International, Accreditation Surveyor; Therapeutic Health Services, Chief Medical Officer; Evergreen Treatment Services, Clinic Director.

Victoria is a long-time resident of WA State. She studied clinical social work and business administration at the University of Washington, where she received her bachelor's and master's degrees, and Certificate in Executive Business Management. Victoria is an experienced leader, director, educator and consultant within the behavioral healthcare service industry. She is a proponent of evidence-based practices and innovation, to advance models of care and systems of care that improve quality/outcomes and reduce unnecessary costs. She has been engaged in work related to bi-directional integration within behavioral health services (mental health and substance use disorders), and between physical health and behavioral health systems of care, for over 20 years in a multitude of service settings to improve outcomes and population health management.

Since IMC inception in April of 2016, Victoria has been engaged on behalf of Molina with behavioral and physical health providers and communities across the state to understand current practices, obstacles, system gaps and opportunities for improvement to enhance quality of care for Medicaid recipients. Key strategic work has included work with the HCA, BHO's, BH ASO's, MCO's, ACH's and other key community stakeholders, and participation in regional and statewide workgroups to advance whole person care for those with behavioral health conditions.

Adelle Fontanet

Adelle Fontanet is an associate director with the Center's Tribal Justice Exchange. She provides on-site and long-distance training and technical assistance to tribes seeking to develop or enhance their justice systems around the country. She has lead justice system needs assessments and strategic planning projects with 14 tribes, including child welfare focused needs assessments. Ms. Fontanet also played a central role in the development of the Tribal Access to Justice Innovation website, which was designed to promote the sharing of information about innovative tribal justice programs across the country. Prior to working with the Tribal Justice Exchange, she participated in a fellowship with the Center where she worked with Bronx Community Solutions to provide alternatives to incarceration to low-level misdemeanor adult and youth offenders in Bronx Criminal Court. Ms. Fontanet is a licensed attorney, having graduated from Columbia Law School, where she participated in the school's peacemaking clinic and visited the Chickasaw Nation to learn about peacemaking. Ms. Fontanet frequently gives presentations at tribal justice conferences and was centrally involved in the planning and implementation of the Red Hook Peacemaking Program.

Ahney King

Ahney King is the Jail and Criminal Court Liaison for Coordinated Care; covering the entire state and all ages. She is a proud Army Brat and has lived in 15 different states and 2 different countries. Her concern for the struggle that some experience, lead her to a Bachelor's Degree in Social Services and a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology. Presently she is studying to complete her Doctorate in Criminal Justice. Previously, she worked at the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery for Washington State, as the Criminal Justice Administrator. She has 7 years' experience providing chemical dependency counseling, 2 years' experience overseeing the Whatcom County Therapeutic Courts and 3 years' experience as the statewide co-lead Therapeutic Courts Coordinator. She has great passion for helping those involved in the Criminal Justice system, helping them become their true self. When not at work you can find her spending time with her two dogs, Olive and Samson.

Jamie Kvistad

Jamie Kvistad has worked at the King County Department of Public Defense in Seattle, Washington since 2005 with rotations in Seattle Municipal Court, Regional Mental Health Court, Juvenile Court and most recently, Drug Diversion Court. She is currently co-teaching a simulation course on Problem-Solving Courts at Seattle University School of Law. She was awarded the Washington Defender Association's Presidents Award in 2011 for her litigation in Mental Health Court challenging Washington State Hospital's refusal to conduct post-disposition competency evaluations. She was interviewed and featured on the *Frontline* Documentary "Chasing Heroin" in February 2016. She has mentored interns and externs and lectured on "Working with Drug Addicted and Mentally Ill Clients" and "Introduction to Problem-Solving Courts in King County" as part of the DPD's New Attorney Training Program. She has taught at the DPD Annual Conference on "Challenging Urinalysis Results" and "Alternatives to the Revolving Door: Using Drug Court or a

DOSA to Keep Your Client Out of Prison if You Can't Get the NG." She also presented at the 2017 Washington State Drug Court Conference and 2018 and 2019 National Drug Court Conference on ethical considerations for defense attorneys and team collaboration. Jamie attended law school at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia and undergraduate school at the University of Washington and double majored in political science and economics.

Terry Lee

Terry Lee is the Behavioral Health Medical Director of the Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW), a not-for-profit Medicaid/Apple Health managed care organization. He is a board-certified Psychiatrist and Child Psychiatrist and board-eligible in Addiction Medicine. Prior to joining CHPW, he was a faculty member at the University of Washington Department of Psychiatry and worked with youth with high behavioral health needs and co-occurring disorders, including youth involved with the juvenile justice and foster care systems. He provided consultation to the King County Juvenile Drug Court and serves on the advisory board of the Center for Children and Youth Justice Girls' Court.

Stephanie Miller

Stephanie Miller, Lewis County Drug Court Program Manager. Stephanie has been working in the criminal justice field since 2005, starting as a victim advocate. She coordinated the Union County Drug Court for seven years, adding a DUII and Juvenile track while there. Stephanie pursued being a Parole and Probation Officer for Union County and spent two years supervising misdemeanor and felony offenders there. In 2015 her family moved to Washington State. Stephanie worked for Washington State DOC as a Community Corrections Officer. She is happy to be back in the world of Drug Courts, because they work!

Karen Otis

Karen Otis is an associate director with the Center's department of treatment court programs. She delivers expert assistance to state and local jurisdictions in the areas of adult drug courts, family drug courts, veterans treatment courts, mental health courts, and more. Karen also designs and delivers remote trainings via webinar and videoconference, and she develops content for the National Drug Court Online Learning System. Karen is a licensed mental health counselor, with over a decade of experience in family treatment court. She holds a masters' degree in forensic psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a master's degree in mental health counseling from the City College of New York.

Melodie Pazolt

Ms. Melodie Pazolt has over 35 years' experience in community rehabilitation with both people with behavioral health issues and people with developmental disabilities. She has operated 20 independent grants/contracts in conjunction with direct services to consumers of mental health services, in addition to managing the activities of a core mental health funded employment program. She was the manager of the Columbia River Mental Health Services Clearview Employment Program, supervising over 30 full time staff who operate MH employment programs, welfare to work programs, MH, DD, VR, and WIA contract services, multiple and federal grants serving youth and adults with disabilities, as well as individual who are homeless. Prior to her position at HCA – DBHR, she worked for the Clark County Department of Community Services as the Consumer and Stakeholder Affairs Manager. Ms. Pazolt is currently the BH Programs and Recovery Support Services Section Manager for the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. Ms. Pazolt brings an understanding of not only the issues that face individuals with behavioral health challenges but an overall understanding of the various systems that may be involved in that person's life.

Carolyn Pence

Carolyn is the Treatment Court Coordinator for Island County, Washington. She is responsible for the coordination of both the Adult Drug Court and Family Treatment Court. She has more than 10 years of experience in program management, drug and alcohol prevention, education, and outreach. She began her drug and alcohol prevention education career as the Traffic Safety Task Force Coordinator for Kitsap County. She relocated to Moses Lake, Washington, where she became the Prevention Specialist for Grant County, working with youth and adults, implementing and coordinating the Moses Lake Community Prevention Coalition and the Moses Lake High School Youth Action Team. Her career then expanded when she became the director of New Hope Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services. She transitioned back to western Washington by accepting the position of Opioid Outreach coordinator for Island County, for that program's initial implementation into the community, partnering with public health and the Island County Sheriff's Office. She has facilitated and provided many evidence-based prevention programs, and has coordinated and provided community education presentations for numerous United States Navy commands (both on base and at sea), educators of all grade levels, and members of the community. Carolyn has also presented at local and state conferences. She has extensive experience working with individuals and families of all ages and various cultural backgrounds who are struggling with addiction and domestic violence, and who have barriers that include access to treatment, housing, and employment. Carolyn has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Saint Martin's University, and a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University.

Heidi Rettinghouse

Heidi Rettinghouse has worked at the King County Department of Public Defense in Seattle, Washington since 2007. She was the Lead Attorney in Regional Mental Health Court and Regional Veterans Court for four years and is currently a felony trial attorney. She is an adjunct professor of law at Seattle University Law School co-teaching on “Collaborative Lawyering in a Problem-Solving Court,” and has trained and presented to interns and new lawyers on “Working with Drug Addicted and Mentally Ill Clients” and “Introduction to Problem-Solving Courts in King County” as part of the Department of Public Defense’s New Attorney Training Program. She has also presented to community forensic staff members and other lawyers on “The Defense Role in the Competency Process” and on “The Defense Role in Mental Health Court” at the King County Regional Mental Health Court Training. She has previously presented at the 2016 and 2017 Washington State Drug Court Conference on mental health court and ethical considerations for defense attorneys. And in 2018 and 2019 she was selected to present at the National Association for Drug Court Professionals Conference on various topics related to defense ethics, group dynamics, and collaboration. Her most recent presentation was alongside prosecutors at the 2019 Crisis Intervention Training International Conference “The Role of Therapeutic Courts in Today’s Landscape of Criminal Justice Alternatives.” She has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington in Sociology with minors in political science and communication, and a Juris Doctor from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School.

Mark Stodola

As NHTSA’s Probation Fellow, Mark Stodola brings over 30 years of experience working in the field of court management and adult probation in Arizona. Mark worked at the Maricopa County Adult Probation Department for 18 years serving in a number of capacities including field supervisor and division director overseeing drug and alcohol treatment programs, problem solving courts and services for the mentally ill. Mark later became the Court Administrator of the Tempe Municipal Court where he served for eight years managing the day to day activities of the court. Most recently Mark served as Program Services Manager in the Adult Probation Services Division of the Arizona Supreme Court where he had oversight of treatment programs for Arizona’s Adult Probation Departments. Mark has presented training on topics surrounding high risk drunk drivers at national, regional and state conferences throughout the country.

Mark received his undergraduate degree in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his Master’s Degree in Education from Northern Arizona University. Mark became a Graduate Fellow through the National Council of State Courts Institute of Court Management.

Shannon Thomas

Shannon Thomas has been a housing case manager with the King County Drug Diversion Court for ten years. He has almost twenty years in the homeless services field, much of which creating and implementing workshops and classes for participants and staff. His professional career began in public school teaching 6th grade. He has an MA in philosophy, loves to draw, and has been engaged in recovery since the mid 90s.

Jon Tunheim

Originally from South Dakota, Jon Tunheim earned his Bachelor Degree in Physics at South Dakota State University in 1987 and soon moved to Washington to attend law school at the University of Puget Sound School of Law. While in law school, he joined the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office as a legal intern and upon being admitted to the bar, was appointed as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. He served the office in that capacity until he was elected Prosecuting Attorney in 2010. During his career, Tunheim personally prosecuted hundreds of cases, specializing in cases involving sexual assault, domestic violence and crimes against children. Since being elected Prosecuting Attorney, Jon has become intensely interested in Hope Theory as a theory of positive change for individuals, organizations and communities. As a self-proclaimed "hope-ologist", Jon is convinced that hope is critical to a person's ability to thrive and flourish. Jon is a frequent presenter of hope theory and strives to provide audiences with a framework to better understand hope and its positive influence on people and organizations.

Courtney Ward

Courtney Ward has 14+ years working in public funded programs from the state to county level, in both Washington and Arizona State. Since 2016, she was worked exclusively in behavioral health. She was previously employed by the North Central Behavioral Health Organization and currently works as a Business Improvement Consultant for Amerigroup WA, Inc. Ms. Ward provides a depth of knowledge and experience in developing payment methodologies for behavioral health services and conducting financial and actuarial analysis for mental health and substance abuse services. She also provides leadership in the development of coding behavioral health services for Amerigroup and works directly with configuration and pricing departments. Ms. Ward also works closely with Amerigroup's government relations department in interpreting and contributing to policy development.