



# AHP SOR3 Hub and Spoke Conference Bios

Making A Transformation (MAT) Conference **2024**



**Jennifer Alley** - Jennifer Alley is the Executive Director for the California Opioid Maintenance Providers and has more than 20 years of health policy and leadership experience in California. Policy areas include Medi-Cal, behavioral health, health insurance, and substance use disorder. Through her various leadership roles, she has been able to help increase access and expand services to California's most populations in need. Jennifer is active as a volunteer in membership driven organizations and was the Secretary for the California Coalition for Mental Health and since 2023 is the Legislative Co-Chair for the California Telehealth Policy Coalition. Jennifer is a Sacramento native and has a bachelor's degree in Policial Science from California State University, Sacramento.

Anna Brewster-Prillwitz - **Coming soon!**





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**Chris Brown** - I'm Chris Brown, and I currently work for Encompass Community Services in Santa Cruz. My position as a Peer Support Specialist comes from having multiple years of lived experience, including experiences related to homelessness, addiction, and trauma. After multiple years, I have been able to maintain over 9 1/2 years of sobriety and change the trajectory of my life. I am a father two, recently married man, a student, and even more than what I truly thought I was worth.



**Michelle Burch** - Accomplished and creative executive with proven ability to capture untapped opportunities for growth and sustainability. Experience directing all core business functions including finance, human resources, program development, and operations while improving efficiencies and lowering costs. Proven ability to partner with public agencies and build coalitions to influence state and local policy change, ensuring continued access to high quality client care.



**Joey Crottogini** - Joey is the Health Center Manager for the Homeless Persons Health Project, an FQHC that is part of the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency. The clinic provides comprehensive primary care, integrated behavioral health, medication-assisted treatment, street medicine, and permanent supportive housing programs.





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**Kendall Darfler** - Kendall Darfler is Co-Principal Investigator of UCLA ISAP's Outcomes Analyses of the California Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion Project, and the Behavioral Health Response and Rescue Project (BHRRP). She has worked in substance use research at UCLA ISAP for twelve years. She holds an MS in Science and Technology Studies (STS), an interdisciplinary field that examines the sociopolitical dynamics of science, technology and medicine. Her research interests include substance use policy, peer-delivered services, health equity, and harm reduction. The goal of her research is to increase access to services that improve health and well-being for people who use drugs.



**Andrew Dertien** - Andrew, drawing from his lived experience with SUD, deeply understands its impact and the individual stories behind it. Grateful for the chance to work with HealthRIGHT 360, he's committed to compassionately guiding others towards supportive care and treatment. Early in his recovery, Andrew spent 18 months at a Vipassana meditation center, followed by a transformative 6-month journey to India. There, he acquired skills in massage therapy and earned certification as a yoga instructor. This Eastern-influenced approach to healing resonates with him, and he later became a licensed massage therapist and yoga instructor. With this foundation in the healing arts, Andrew seamlessly transitioned into his role as a counselor. Having completed both residential and outpatient programs with the agency he now works for, he stands as a testament to its mission of giving hope, building health, and changing lives.



**Thomas E. Freese, Ph.D.** - Thomas E. Freese (Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, California School of Professional Psychology, 1995) is currently Director of the UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP), and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Psychiatry. Additionally, he serves as Director of Training and Dissemination for the Division of Addiction Psychiatry in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Co-Director of the SAMHSA-funded Pacific Southwest (HHS Region 9) Addictions Technology Transfer Center (PSATTC), and Co-PI of the Training and Dissemination contract with DHCS for the Recovery Incentives Program: California's Contingency Management Benefit. Previously, Dr. Freese served as ISAP Director of Training for 20 years. He has conducted trainings on a wide variety of topics including addressing the stimulant and opioid epidemics, the intersection of HIV and substance use, culturally responsive care, implementing integrated treatment, and implementing evidence based treatment practices. Dr. Freese has developed and conducted trainings across the US and internationally.

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**Diane Hilderbrand** - Diane received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from UCLA in 2019. Since then Diane has spent several years working within health equity and substance use research. At CSULB, she was a research assistant on a study looking into the Misuse and Diversion of Prescription Stimulants on College Campuses. Since 2020, Diane has worked at UCLA's Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP) working on the evaluation of DHCS's State Opioid Response Projects, including the Hub and Spoke program. She is currently a Project Director at ISAP evaluating additional projects: California's Opioid Settlement Funds, MAT in DHCS Licensed Facilities, and MAT in Jails and Drug Courts.



**KIRA Jeter** - Kira Jeter is the evaluation manager for the MAT Expansion and Behavioral Health Response and Rescue projects at UCLA's Integrated Substance Abuse Programs. Kira has over 17 years of experience in designing and evaluating programs focused on substance use treatment services; mental health treatment; services for unhoused populations; and groups that are involved with the justice system. Additionally, she has provided technical assistance on a variety of topics such as data collection, evidence-based practices, project management, and building collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations. Her research interests include community-based participatory research, gender-responsive/trauma-informed treatment for justice system-involved women, basic needs insecurity, recovery capital, program evaluation, and health disparities. Kira obtained a Doctor of Public Health degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and has a Master of Public Health degree from The George Washington University.





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**Jason Kletter, Ph.D.** - Dr. Jason Kletter is the President of BayMark Health Services. He has worked for over twenty six years in operational, management and executive roles. Dr. Kletter also serves as the President of the California Opioid Maintenance Providers (COMP) group, representing the state association with the largest group of opioid treatment providers in the country; as well as serving on the board and as legislative committee chair of the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence (AATOD).

Dr. Kletter works regularly with local, state and federal government officials to advise on regulations, policy, funding, and health care trends. Dr. Kletter has served as advisor to the California State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs on many committees including the narcotic treatment program advisory committee, the California outcome management system workgroup, the counselor certification advisory committee and the continuum of services system redesign. He has also participated in federal center for substance abuse treatment initiatives, advising on accreditation guidelines, served as an expert reviewer for Treatment Improvement Protocols and evaluating training curricula for opioid treatment program physicians. He also advises state legislators working to craft sound policy for legislation. Dr. Kletter earned his doctorate in organizational psychology in 2001.

**Helen Meline** - Recovery offered me to the opportunity to complete my undergraduate degree in Psychology at CSU Sacramento, in the mid 1990's. I was invited to T.A. for Dr. Westbrook's Psych 117 which was an introduction to the complexities of addiction. The following twenty years, worked for Santa Clara County, as a member of Juvenile Treatment Court Team. An innovative response to the needs of substance using youth with intensive community supervision and treatment. Santa Clara County has led to way with adult and juvenile treatment courts, which are still in practice today. In 2004, accepted a position Essex County, UK as the Commissioner for Essex DAAT. Management and oversight of HOME Office funding specific to improvement of services for youth. Returned to US, working for County of Santa Cruz, as mental health client specialist for Children's Mental Health, and Homeless Persons Health Project.

In my off hours work as announcer for (disk jockey) for local alternative rock, jazz, & blues station. My dog Finn "taking" me for daily walks keeping me moving.

Living sober, life on life's terms since 3.25.85.





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**Gloria Miele, Ph.D.** - Gloria Miele, PhD has been helping health care providers put science into practice for over 25 years. As Program Director for State Opioid Projects at UCLA ISAP, she helps lead training and technical assistance initiatives for California's health care workforce who treat people with opioid and other substance use disorders. She has been involved in developing and facilitating the California Hub and Spoke Learning Collaboratives and related training activities since the project's inception in 2017 and helps lead ISAP's Tribal MAT portfolio of work. She is Chair of UCLA ISAP's Continuing Medical Education Committee. From 2001-2016, she was Training Director for NIDA's Clinical Trials Network's Greater New York Node, where she designed, developed and delivered training for national multisite effectiveness trials. She was Instructor of Clinical Psychology (in Psychiatry) at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons for 20 years. She is co-author of *Trauma Services for Women in Substance Abuse Treatment: An Integrated Approach* (APA Press, 2010), as well as dozens of peer-reviewed and other publications. She volunteers for a variety of non-profits and boards, including the Scientific Advisory Board for the International Center on Responsible Gaming (ICRG). Other interests include health equity, leadership development in nonprofit and healthcare settings, and self-care for helping professionals.

**Willian Morris** - My 20 years of front-line experience as medical director of the Janus of Santa Cruz methadone clinic has been strengthened by my work with Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF) addressing chronic prescription opioid challenges leading to the development of the clinical concept of "opioid failure" to guide clinicians in the management of patients on chronic opioid therapy. Grant funding by the California Health Care Foundation in 11/2015 allowed for a community consensus publication "Prescriber Practice Guidelines SafeRx Santa Cruz County" (<https://www.hipscc.org/prescriber-practice-guidelines>) that incorporated the "opioid failure" concept for widespread use to meet the challenges of chronic opioid prescribing for chronic pain. In 2016 I organized and implemented PAMF's innovative "Opioid Assessment Clinic" to provide clinical assessment and management of patients on chronic opioid therapy for chronic pain based on the principles of assessment for opioid failure, accumulating extensive experience in opioid weaning and transition to buprenorphine.







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Rita Pacheco - **Coming soon!**

**YeAre Parker** - Born 40 miles outside New Orleans in a town called Thibodaux. Raise in a high-crime, poverty-stricken community. I decided to join the military at 17 years of age and opted to leave for basic training over walking across the stage at my graduation ceremony. My last duty station over my 7-year stint in the military landed me in California, where I met my wife of 13 years and fathered two children. I started my first California career in Information Technology with the skills and degree I earned in the military. It was while working in a hospital's IT department, and my daughter was diagnosed with a rare disease at birth, that piqued my interest in joining the healthcare field. Returning to school and earning a degree in Healthcare Administration with a concentration in HealthCare technologies allowed me to expand my access to knowledge across multiple specialties, leading me to where I am today in Addiction Medicine. Traveling home throughout the years, I've watched how drugs have destroyed my hometown and personal community. I've watched family members and friends struggle with addiction and not have access or information to any treatment resources. Currently, I work in a non-profit organization to help treat OUD while also assisting back home with the organization Brothers at Peace to provide education to the youth in the community I grew up in on the damages drugs can not only do to their body but their families and communities as well. While not traveling, hanging with the family, or watching football on Sundays, I typically look for some projects to complete with my hands. I love constructing something from start to finish and taking pride in my finished project.





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**Shannon Robinson** - Dr. Robinson is board certified in Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine, a Fellow of American Society of Addiction Medicine, and works for Health Management Associates, a national healthcare consulting firm. She served as the first Chief of Addiction Service for California Correctional Healthcare Services and was Director of the Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program at the San Diego, Veterans Administration. Dr. Robinson assisted with the development of the VA's national educational materials for Alcohol Use Disorders and Opioid Use Disorders and served on the expert advisory committee for the National Sheriff's Association/National Commission on Correctional Healthcare (2018) Jail Based Medication Assisted Treatment: Promising Practice Guidelines and Resources for the Field, the Bureau of Justice Assistance/National Institute of Corrections Guidelines for Managing Substance Use in Jails (2023). She has almost three decades of experience treating patients, supervising staff, researching, and teaching behavioral health, primary and specialty care, pharmacy, nursing, legal system, patients, and community members. Dr. Robinson's experience includes design, implementation, and oversight of substance use disorder and co-occurring treatment programs in Veterans Administration and correctional settings focusing on medications for addiction treatment, evidence based psychosocial treatment and transitions of care.

**Beth Rutkowski, MPH** - Beth Rutkowski, MPH, has been associated with UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP) since December 2000, and currently serves as the Director of Training, Co-Director of the SAMHSA-funded Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center, and Co-Principal Investigator Training and Implementation Support for the Recovery Incentives Program: California's Contingency Management Benefit. The majority of Ms. Rutkowski's time is focused on the development of synchronous and asynchronous training and intensive technical assistance activities and products and based on evidence-based substance use disorder research and targeted to the community at large. In addition, she organizes and conducts conferences and trainings throughout the Pacific Southwest region (HHS Region 9, covering AZ, CA, HI, NV, and the six U.S. Affiliated Pacific Jurisdictions) on scientifically validated interventions and topics. Ms. Rutkowski has co-authored and edited several peer reviewed research articles, book chapters, special issues, and technical reports on a variety of topics related to the treatment of substance use disorders.







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**Alisha Shelton** - I am a single mother in recovery. My path to recovery began when I found out that I was pregnant with my now six-year-old son. I have experience with MAT, in the form of Buprenorphine. This form of treatment has helped me acquire coping skills to gain back control in my life over the past seven years. In addition to my personal experience with substance use and recovery, I am also the child of an Alcoholic. I have learned to cope with adverse experiences and spend my knowledge and motivation on my own growth and on helping others in similar circumstances develop the skills needed to overcome the challenges that substance use disorder and mental health problems bring to daily life. My family, friends, and maintaining my physical and mental health are my motivation to continue on my path of recovery.

**Garrett Stenson, MSW** - Garrett Stenson is the Program Director. He graduated with a degree in Psychology from California Polytechnic State University in 1997 and earned his Master's Degree in Social Work from CSUS in 2001.

Garrett has served as a Program Director in the field since 2004 and has over 25 years of experience in MAT. Garrett enjoys interacting with patients and doing presentations in the local community to help reduce stigma in our patient population, which they too frequently experience.



**Kimberly Sue, MD** - Dr. Kimberly Sue is an Assistant Professor of Medicine with the Program in Addiction Medicine (Division of General Internal Medicine) at Yale University School of Medicine. She is the former Medical Director of the National Harm Reduction Coalition, New York, NY, which strives to improve the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs. Currently, she serves as an Attending Physician at the Central Medical Unit, APT Foundation, which provides primary care to patients receiving methadone and other substance use treatment services and supervises fellows and trainees within the Yale Addiction Medicine Fellowship program. She also is an Attending Physician on the hospital-based Yale Addiction Medicine Consult Service. She also holds board certification in both Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. Dr. Sue trained at Harvard's MD-PhD Social Science Program, and has a PhD in sociocultural anthropology. Her book, *Getting Wrecked: Women, Incarceration, and the American Opioid Crisis* (2019), is based on her research on women with opioid use disorder in Massachusetts prison and jails. Her current research interests include harm reduction, stigma, gender/women and substance use, and overdose response strategies on local, state, and federal levels.



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**Rory VanGarde** - Rory VanGarde is a Senior Policy Consultant for the Integrated Care team at Aurrera Health Group, with more than 10 years of complex statistical analysis experience. Rory supports clients at the state and county level through project management, policy analysis, data analysis and program evaluation. Rory manages the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) survey, data analysis, and technical assistance for required contractors.