

Presenter Biographies (in order of presentation)

Melanie Whitter - *Melanie Whitter is the Director of Research and Program Applications for the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), Inc. In this role, she shares state evidence-based and best practices across the nation, identifies state problems and issues that merit further study and research; provides technical assistance to the states, territories and Pacific Jurisdictions; and coordinates and facilitates timely information exchange to the states concerning policies, programs and practices in the substance use disorder field. Prior to her role at NASADAD, she held the position of Principal Associate and led Abt Associate's Behavioral Health Practice. She has also held the position of Single State Agency director for alcohol and other drug services for the State of Illinois and served on the NASADAD Board of Directors, as the Vice-President for Treatment, and as a Regional Director. Over her career, she has been recognized for her commitment to advancing system change by building workforce and infrastructure capacity, creating and sustaining partnerships, and emphasizing research and evaluation.*

Noelle McDonald - *Noelle McDonald coordinates grantmaking activities for the program department at the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. She monitors grants and contributes to the development, review and presentation of proposals related to both the Substance Use Prevention and the Opportunity Youth Workforce Development Initiatives. Prior to this role, she provided programmatic support to the director of international programs at the Foundation. Formerly, McDonald worked as a professional education program manager at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution and as alumni relations representative at Pepperdine University School of Law. Academic achievements include a master's degree in English and comparative literature from the University of California, San Diego, and a bachelor's degree in English and world literature from UCLA.*

Tracy Flinn, Ed.D. - *Dr. Flinn joined the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) as a Senior Research Analyst in 2013 and primarily works with state prevention coordinators. She has over 20 years of experience working in prevention at the national, state, and local levels, and is a senior expert in substance use prevention strategies, project management, training and technical assistance, and alcohol and drug research, trends, and policies. She was previously the Associate Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Violence Prevention. Dr. Flinn also directed the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded "A Matter of Degree" coalition at the University of Delaware, where she implemented environmental prevention strategies to reduce alcohol and other drug problems among students and established a statewide prevention coalition of colleges and universities. She received her doctorate in higher education administration and educational leadership from the University of Delaware in 2007.*

Caroline Halsted - *Caroline Halsted serves as an Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Research Associate at the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), working with the State Opioid Treatment Authorities (SOTAs), women's services coordinators, and youth coordinators. Caroline has experience in state government and the substance use*

field and has performed research on substance use disorders and treatments, women's health, and substance use among young adults. Before coming to NASADAD, Caroline was a fellow in the Governor of Illinois' Federal Affairs office. Prior to that, she worked as a summer research intern at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine through the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) summer research program. At NASADAD, Caroline assists with various projects by performing data analysis, writing reports, developing TA products, and organizing TA activities such as webinars and conference calls.

Douglas Fuller, Ph.D. - *Dr. Fuller brings over 20 years of experience focused on HIV/AIDS, substance use disorder, criminal justice, and veteran wellness. He is currently the Associate Director of Research and Program Applications for the National Association State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) and also serves as an adjunct professor for Howard University's Department of Sociology and Criminology. Previous to his tenure at NASADAD, Dr. Fuller served as a Senior Associate in Abt Associates Domestic Health Division. Dr. Fuller has extensive experience in leading large-scale sales efforts, strategic planning, project direction, research design and implementation, and providing technical assistance to health professionals.*

Donald Hallcom, Ph.D. - *Donald Hallcom is the Director of Prevention and Early Intervention with the Department of Human Services - Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in New Jersey. He oversees funding for and statewide delivery of evidence-based curricular programs for young people, families, and older adults as well as a system of 21 county-based prevention coalitions. Additionally, he has developed specialized programs for older adults, military families, young athletes, and LGBT youth. He also manages numerous recovery-focused programs, such as the Opioid Overdose Recovery Program, Support Teams for Addiction Recovery, and a program for inmates with opioid use disorder who are released from state correctional facilities. Donald earned his Ph.D. in Social Welfare Policy and Planning from Columbia University.*

Jason M. Dotson, MHS, LCADC, LAC - *Jason Dotson is the director of LGBT Services at the North Jersey Community Research Initiative, aka NJCRI, located in Newark, New Jersey. He is a dual-licensed clinical mental health and drug and alcohol counselor and has earned his bachelor's degree in communication, a master's in human services with a concentration in counseling, and is working towards his Ph. D in human development. He has over 15 years developing programs for the LGBTQ community and has a history of sitting on various community planning boards to increase access to care for marginalized populations.*

Tamoray Evans-Gray, CIT - *Tamoray Evans-Gray is North Jersey Community Research Initiative's (NJCRI) Project Wow's LGBTQ Services substance use disorder counselor. She has earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and working towards her clinical drug and alcohol license. She has 13 years of experience within the non-profit sector specializing in case management, client assessment & referral, formal/informal outreach, maintaining community partnerships, and promoting safe spaces for at-risk youth within the inner-city areas.*

Ivan Wilson - Ivan Wilson is North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI) PrEP Counselor. He is one of NJCRI's highlights. He has transitioned from client to change agents. Ivan has extended his knowledge as a phlebotomist to serve his community better. He has dedicated 15 years to moving the community and keeping the community safe and informed

Brian Jenney, MA, CAGS, LMHC, LADC I - Brian Jenney currently serves as the Director of the Office for Youth and Young Adult Services for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services. Prior to this, Brian served as a Mental Health Director and Regional Mental Health Director for the Massachusetts Partnership for Correctional Healthcare, a vendor agency for the Massachusetts Department of Correction. Brian has over twenty years in the field of youth intervention and treatment services. This has included work in community outreach; school and educational programming; youth residential treatment; and juvenile detention services. He has a Master of Arts degree from Tennessee Technological University in Educational Psychology and Counselor Education and a Certificate of Advance Graduate Study from Bridgewater State University in Mental Health Counseling. In addition, he is a licensed mental health counselor (LMHC) and licensed drug and alcohol counselor (LADC I).

Rebecca Butler, MSW, LCSW - Rebecca holds a master's degree in social work and is a licensed clinical social worker. She is the Assistant Director for the Office of Youth & Young Adult Services in the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Rebecca oversees the statewide implementation, financing, and workforce development for community-based and school-based intervention services and ambulatory care. Rebecca also convenes the working group addressing medication for opioid use disorders in youth and young adults and has presented nationally at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration and the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Rebecca has served as an independent consultant to the Institute for Innovation & Implementation at the University of Maryland on adolescent substance and creating systems of care. Her work has included the court system, school districts, and medical institutions developing and operationalizing initiatives to address service gaps and increase access for underserved populations, especially youth of color and LGBTQ+ youth.

Sabrina Xavier, MPH - Sabrina Xavier (she/her/hers) is the Grant Coordinator for the SOR School-Based Intervention program at Massachusetts Department of Public Health. She has a Master of Public Health degree in Program Management and Maternal and Child Health from Boston University School of Public Health. She has been working with the youth and young adult population since her time served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in South Africa in the HIV community sector. During her free time, Sabrina enjoys reading, spending time with family and traveling around the globe learning about different cultures and traditions.

Lea Forster - Lea Forster works with Beth Israel Lahey Health as the Manager of Grant and State Funded Youth Initiatives. She has been treating substance use since her first internship in graduate school and has always found the work inspiring and meaningful. She is a certified supervisor in A-CRA and works closely with BSAS assisting in the training and certification of other counselors in that model. In 2018 she won the CBH Innovation award for her work

combining A-CRA and Adventure Based Counseling into an engaging group therapy curriculum for adolescents. She enjoys cooking and hiking with her family and two rescue dogs Knox and Bagel.

Michelle Lipinski - Michelle Muffett-Lipinski is the Principal of the Northshore Recovery High School located in Beverly, Massachusetts. She is licensed as a Science Teacher, Principal/Director, Superintendent, and has served as a School Board Member and is currently a City Councilor in Dover, NH. She has over 25 years of experience as a Principal/Director in alternative school settings. Michelle is a Recovery Advocate and will continue to search for ways to help solve the addiction and opioid epidemic locally and nationally. She speaks around the country about the philosophy and mission of creating adolescent substance use and mental health recovery supports in academic settings. She is also a strong advocate for combining a supportive therapeutic milieu with rigorous academic standards. Michelle has played a leadership role in helping her staff develop authentic performance assessments and upholding high academic standards for students with significant risk factors. Due to her unique perspective on these issues, Michelle and her students have been featured on ABC, CNN, NBC, NECN, Anderson Cooper, and Current TV as well as other media outlets across the country, most recently, MTV's 16 and Recovering.

Michelle also started the [icanhelp](http://www.icanhelp.me) program (www.icanhelp.me), operated through her non-profit, Potential Connections, in response to the number of students who are unable to connect with a trusted community partner and consequently never receive the essential services they need to live a productive and healthy life. Most recently, she started the PASS program with many of her local school districts, Northshore YMCA, and behavioral health providers. PASS was recently awarded a multi-year grant from DPH/DESE School/Community Based Target Intervention Services Grant under the State Opioid Response (SOR). This program offers a non-punitive approach to student discipline for ten districts on the North Shore. (Lynn, Saugus, Salem, Peabody, Beverly, Ipswich, Manchester-Essex, NEC, Newburyport, Gloucester).

Rose Allocca, MPH - Rose Allocca (she/her/hers) is the Youth and Young Adult Intervention Specialist at the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services' Office of Youth and Young Adult Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. She has an MPH in Maternal and Child Health from Boston University School of Public Health. As a public health professional and Boston native, she is committed to serving the needs of children, young adults and families in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mary Chao, LMHC - Mary Chao, LMHC, is a regional trainer and consultant of adolescent substance use treatment for the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services' Office of Youth and Young Adult Services. Mary's work includes workforce development, increased access to adolescent substance use treatment, and integrated treatment for co-occurring disorders. Mary is a treatment coordinator and clinician at Justice Resource Institute where she practices and supervises clinicians certified in Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA), an evidence-based substance use treatment for youth and young adults. Additionally, Mary collaborates with UMass Medical Center and Boston College to facilitate substance use courses

for experienced clinicians. Mary earned her Master's degree in 2013 from the University of Northern Colorado.

Ashley Holmes, Ph.D., MPH - Dr. Ashley Holmes is an epidemiologist for JSI R&T and works within the MDPH Bureau of Substance Addiction Services' Office of Youth and Young Adult Services and Office of Statistics and Evaluation; she is also a part-time lecturer in the Department of Community Health at Tufts University. Dr. Holmes has a broad background in epidemiology, statistics, and data analysis, with specific training and expertise in nutrition, cancer, and substance addiction research. She received her PhD from Emory University and MPH from George Washington University.

Anthony Jackson - Anthony Jackson currently serves as the Director of Prevention in the Division of Substance Abuse Services (DSAS). In this capacity, he oversees all prevention activities for DSAS, including the Prevention portion of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SAPT BG) and administration of prevention activities carried out through the State Opioid Response Grant (TN SOR) I & II. SAPT BG and TN SOR I & II prevention activities include: supporting the tobacco, prescription drug and alcohol prevention activities of Tennessee Substance Abuse Prevention Coalitions and Tennessee Prevention Network providers; opioid overdose training to key stakeholders throughout the state through the Regional Overdose Prevention Specialists (ROPS); developing a multimodal training program for healthcare professionals on the assessment and treatment of OUD including DATA waiver training; ensuring access to naloxone in all the state's high-risk areas to "high risk" individuals; and working to mitigate the circumstances related to opioid overdose outbreaks.

Judy Freudenthal, Ed.D. - Judy Freudenthal has served as Oasis Center Vice President of Youth Engagement, Action & External Evaluation with 40 years of experience in working with youth and families through counseling, prevention, youth civic engagement, and advocacy. She received her doctorate in Human Development Counseling at Vanderbilt University and taught there as Adjunct Professor in multiculturalism to school and community counselors in training. Under Judy's leadership, Oasis Center was designated as a Model Prevention Program in Tennessee through the Southeastern Center for the Application of Prevention Technology; was awarded the Innovation Program of the Year by the Tennessee Association of Homes for the Aging, and the Innovative Program of Tennessee by the Southern Policies Board of Governors for its capacity for economic and workforce development. Judy was named the Prevention Professional of the Year for Middle Tennessee by the Tennessee Department of Health. Her inclusive and intergenerational leadership contributes to Oasis Center's national recognition as an innovative agency with award winning programs that build relationships to advance youth well-being, amplify youth voice and inspire actions towards a just community.

Angie Sanchez - Angie Sanchez Flores, a Senior at Glencliff High School, has been a member of Oasis Center's International Teen Outreach Program (ITOP) for four years. Passionate about the importance of student's voices, she served as a member of the Oasis Youth Action Weekend Committee and participated in the Arts & Activism program through Oasis Art Studio. As a student restorative leader, Angie is also helping lead the transition from a punitive to a

restorative environment beginning at Glencliff and branching out to other schools in the Nashville community. Angie plans to pursue a career in nursing but is currently undecided on what college to attend.

Gianna Lopez - *Gianna Lopez, Senior at Martin Luther King Jr. Magnet High School, is a second-year student leader on Oasis Center's youth action and advocacy team, Students of Stonewall as well as a member of Oasis' Just Us. An active member of her school community, Gianna is also a member of RMLK's Latino Achievers, having previously served as Vice President. She is a fierce advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and the Hispanic community, especially within in the intersectionality of the two. Gianna plans to study psychology and political science, but hasn't chosen a school yet.*

Robert Morrison - *Robert Morrison is the Executive Director and Director Legislative Affairs for the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD). Robert Morrison first came to the NASADAD in 1998 when he worked on legislative and regulatory affairs as Public Policy Associate. Robert then served as Associate Director of Government Relations at Smith, Bucklin and Associates from 1999 to 2001 where he directed government affairs programs for health care organizations, including the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. Robert returned to NASADAD in 2001 as Director of Public Policy and went on to become Executive Director in 2009. Robert first came to Washington in 1993 to work for the late U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (NJ) for approximately four years. Robert graduated from Drew University in New Jersey with a B.A. in Political Science and completed graduate work in American Government at the Johns Hopkins University.*