

# SCRIPT

**Summit on Community Resilience, Intervention, Prevention, and Training**

## SCRIPT Conference Schedule via ZOOM

**Pre-Conference July 9**

**Main Conference July 16 & July 17**

\*All programs have a 30-minute Q & A to follow

\*Please ask for our Relaxation and Decompression Room if needed throughout the day.

### Schedule at a Glance

#### **July 9, 2021**

Organization	Presenter(s)	Title	Format	Time
Asian Discrimination Panel	Blake Chow Cindy Kao Eric Kung Jorge Wong	Pre-Conference: Asian Perspectives in Today's Climate: Promoting Community Change and Unity	2 hours	6:00pm – 8:00pm <b>Meeting ID: 532 927 0299</b>  <b>No Passcode Needed</b>

#### **July 16, 2021**

Organization	Presenter(s)	Title	Format	Time
Conference Founders and Directors	Debra Warner Aquil Basheer	Keynote Speaker: Blake Chow	1 hour	9:00am – 10:00am <b>Zoom meeting ID: 824 5405 1201</b>  <b>Passcode: 272608</b> <i>Same for both days</i>
BUILD	Debra Warner Aquil Basheer Tommie Rivers Nikko Deloney	Male Empowerment & Trauma Reduction, the Connect!	1 hour	10:00am-11:00am

	Barbara Jett			
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Martice Hawkins George Boykins Cristal Mills Vanya Voivedich	Keynote Panel: The FBI's Role in Protecting Communities: How we do it and the ways in which we respond	1.5 hours	11:00am- 12:30pm
Private Practice	Raymond Nourmand	Judaism and Mental Health	30 minutes	12:30pm-1:00pm
Author	Carol Sligh	Overcoming Obstacles and Living Your Dreams	30 minutes	1:00pm-1:30pm
MenHealing	Jim Struve Uma Dorn Richard Smith	Building Blocks for Social Justice: One Organization's Experience	1hour	1:30pm-2:30pm
A&E	Danielle Green	Governing Diversity Leadership in Media: Innovating Access and Accountability	30 minutes	2:30pm-3:00pm
Trauma-Informed Consulting	Melinda D. Meshad	Promoting a Healthy Community through Trauma- Informed Leadership	30 minutes	3:00pm-3:30pm
Trojan Outreach	McCall Hall	Leading through the Lens: A Pivot to Digital Leadership	30 minutes	3:30pm-4:00pm
USC Latino Alumni Association	Mercy Willard	Impact of Academic Scholarships on the Persistence of First-Generation Low-Income Latinos attending Public Universities in Southern California	30 minutes	4:00-4:30pm

Moms Demand Action	Deborah Nelson	Putting Grief Into Action	30 minutes	4:30pm-5:00pm
Beyond Community Post Conference Special Topics  Dr. Debra Publishing	Sonya Carey Debra Warner Serena Hamilton	Make it or Bake it	30minutes	5:00pm-5:30pm
Minority Psychology Network (MPN)	Successful Brim Dominique Lloyd	Minority Psychology Today	30 minutes	5:30pm- 6:00pm
San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center: Bullying & School Violence Advocacy Program	Sarah Cruz, Karyna Gonzalez	Bullying and Cyberbullying: How to be an upstander in your communities.	30 minutes	6:00pm-6:30pm
Self-Care Lab	Nita Watson	Using Exercise to Address Past Trauma	30 minutes	6:30pm to 7:00pm
Happy Hour			30 Minutes	7:00pm to 7:30pm

**July 17, 2021**

Organization	Presenter(s)	Title	Format	Time
Morning Opener	Moderator: Debra Warner Paul Acosta Aquil Basheer Tory Johnson Jim McDonnell Cheryl Moody	Black Lives Matter and Solutions	1.5 hours	9:00am-10:30am
Discovery Tours Sexual Assault Awareness	Andrew Pari Julia Shiffman	Exploring or Exploited?: The Exchange Between Money & Sex	30 minutes	10:30am-11:00am
Discovery Tours Private Practice	Michael Levittan	Suicidality and Depression: Assessment, Dynamics, Prevention, and Treatment	1 hour	11:00am-12:00pm
Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.)	Sonny- Los Angeles County Chapter President	Introduction to Services  “The Keepers of the Children”	30 minutes	12:00pm-12:30pm
Attorney, Orange County Public Defender Office	Adam Vining	California’s Racial Justice Act (RJA)	1 hour	12:30pm-1:30pm
Oklahoma Forensic Hospital	Crystal Hernandez	Trauma Inclusive Healing: Pivoting from Broken to Wholeness	30 minutes	1:30pm-2:00pm
Discovery Tours Private Practice	Cris Scaglione	Microaggressions: What are they and what can we do about them?	1 hour	2:00pm-3:00pm
Put It In Perspective, LLC	Felicia Reed	How Can Leaders Support Social Change in 2021?	30 minutes	3:00pm-3:30pm
Community Based Panel	Paul Acosta Tristin Engels Kandee Lewis	Rape Kits: and the Power of Truth	1 hour	3:30pm-4:30pm

Educator: Puerto Rico	Lorena Vazquez Santiago	Trauma, Resilience, and Psychological Interventions for Latinx Survivors'	30 minutes	4:30pm-5:00pm
Closing	Robert Hernandez Dulce Acosta	Hope Awards	30 minutes	5:00pm-5:30pm
Beyond Community Post Conference Special Topics	Debra Warner  Traducido al español por: Rosa L. Rodríguez, Lorena Vázquez Santiago  Soporte de traducción: Olivia Garcia, Elizabeth Munoz Islas, Alma Lopez, Lorena Rodriguez y Erica Solis	Book Signing: Pasado de Él, Historia de Ella	30 minutes	5:30pm-6:00pm
Self-Care Lab	Nita Watson	Using Exercise to Address Past Trauma	30 minutes	6:00pm- 6:30pm
Happy Hour			30 minutes	6:30pm-7:00pm

## **Friday, July 9th, Pre-Conference**

### **ABSTRACT**

#### **6:00-8:00**

##### **Asian Perspectives in Today's Climate: Promoting Community Change and Unity**

Moderator: Debra Warner

Panelist: Blake Chow, Cindy Kao, Eric Kung & Jorge Wong

Due to current life circumstances, there has been a substantial increase in discrimination towards Asian communities. This panel will discuss the topic pertaining to discriminatory behavior, stereotypes and ways to promote change while embracing the Asian community. Question and answer period to follow.

1. Reflecting on today's society, what key events have had the most reflection for you?
  - a. Do you think COVID-19 has contributed to your experience?
2. What are some myths about Asian culture that can be seen as discriminatory?
3. Have the recent events in today's society affected our views across generations?
  - a. Have there been behavioral changes in Asian and non-Asian cultures?
4. How can we promote unity and change within all communities?

## **Friday, July 16th**

### **ABSTRACTS**

#### **9:00-9:50**

*Moderators: Debra Warner and Aquil Basheer*

Keynote: Blake Chow

The opening ceremony will discuss the nature of the 7th annual SCRIPT conference and this year's theme of "Embracing Social Change Through Leadership". The conference opener will have speakers from the community and application of the conference to the life roles we interact in.

#### **10:00-11:00**

##### **Male Empowerment & Trauma Reduction, The Connect!**

Aquil Basheer, Tommie Rivers, Nikko Deloney and Barbara Jett

We will establish the effect trauma and compound trauma has on the empowerment of the male. I will illustrate how trauma and the lack of negation of said trauma destroys the ability of the male to establish a sphere of greatness and self-respect. We will also go into the components of what establishes manhood, (all three stages, male, boy, man).

**11:00-12:30**

**The FBI's Role in Protecting Communities: How We Do It and the Ways in Which We Respond**

Keynote Panel: Federal Bureau of Investigation

Moderator: Matrice Hawkins

Panelist George Boykins, Cristal Mills, and Vanya Voivedich

The FBI is a premier national security and law enforcement organization. Our mission is to protect the American people and uphold the U.S. Constitution, and we accomplish the mission by gathering evidence, solving cases to enforce U.S. federal laws, and preventing attacks against the United States. In addition, we also provide a range of services and resources to our partners and the general public. This presentation will address the FBI's role in protecting communities, how we do it, and the ways we respond to violent crimes, human rights violations, and the support we provide to victims and their families.

**12:30-1:00**

**Judaism and Mental Health**

Raymond Nourmand

Judaism views mental health problems as related to the functioning of one's soul. The soul craves to be nourished by truth. Society makes it challenging for people to see the truth. Dr. Nourmand will talk about the importance of seeking truth, implications for therapists and mental health issues as well.

**1:00-1:30**

**Overcoming Obstacles and Living Your Dreams**

Carol Sligh

Having a "community" is a hidden component to those who are successful in attaining their goals and those capable to endure. It can be as small as a circle of family and friends or as large as an entire city, group or local organization. No man is an island, and no one ever was created to be or do it alone. The greater the obstacles the more vital is your community. This workshop addresses the importance of having a community and identifying how to develop and fortify your personal community.

**1:30-2:30**

**Building Blocks for Social Justice: One Organization's Experience**

Jim Struve, Uma Dorn and Richard Smith

MenHealing is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide healing resources for adult men who have experienced sexual victimization during childhood or as adults. Our mission to help male survivors heal requires us to address the intersectionality of sexual violence with cultural context and toxic

social/political issues. This presentation will focus on three building blocks that are fundamental to our organizational aspiration of grounding our work in principles of social justice, with congruence between expressed values and acts of solidarity with others in the movement for social justice and racial equity. The format for this session will consist of an initial framing conversation between MenHealing staff and affiliates, brainstorming sessions with participants and the presenters, and an opportunity for knowledge exchange and shared practices on ways social service organizations and mental health practitioners are engaging in social justice work.

**2:30-3:00**

**Governing Diversity Leadership in Media: Innovating Access and Accountability**

Danielle Green

How does diversity leadership connect with governance and the digital communication industry? In August of 2011, President Barack Obama issued an Executive Order 13583: “Establishing a Coordinated Government-Wide Initiative to Promote Diversity and Inclusion in the Federal Workforce. In 2012, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) published plans to carry out the President’s directive. On April 24, 2017, Chairman Ajit Pai announced his intention to form a new federal advisory committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment. This Committee gave advice and recommendations to the Commission regarding how to empower disadvantaged communities and accelerate the entry of small businesses, including those owned by women and minorities into the media, digital news, and audio and video programming industries. In 2020, Former President Donald Trump, reversed diversity and inclusion efforts by introducing Executive Order 13950 on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping which barred federal agencies, federal contractors, and recipients of federal grants from conducting diversity and inclusion training.

This talk will discuss diversity initiatives in the digital communication age outside of government in which cable companies such as A+E Networks and its counterparts are advancing efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion from a leadership commitment to building relationships through outreach with business trade associations, community organizations, and talent development programs. It will also examine the challenges posed by industry standards that prevent access to opportunity for BIPOC communities as well as areas of innovation to ensure that disadvantaged communities are not denied a wide range of opportunity by current and next-generation media executives.

**3:00-3:30**

**Promoting a Healthy Community through Trauma-Informed Leadership**

Melinda D. Meshad

This presentation will provide an overview of the impact of adversity and trauma creating a state of fear, negative behaviors and impaired relationships while

linking core principles to resilience and positive community involvement. It will discuss how leadership can utilize these principles within agencies and in the community, creating positive social change that includes shared empowerment.

**3:30-4:00**

**Leading through the Lens: A Pivot to Digital Leadership**

McCall Hall

The Covid-19 pandemic forced numerous social service agencies to pivot to digital means for success after years of in-person methods to serve their populations. For many social service leaders, closing the digital divide and leading through it became the ultimate test while producing valuable learning.

**4:00-4:30**

**Impact of Academic Scholarships on the Persistence of First-Generation Low-Income Latinos Attending Public Universities in Southern California**

Mercy Willard

A presentation of findings from a study utilizing Yosso's critical race theory and Bourdieu's social capital theory to examine the impact of academic scholarship programs on the persistence of first-generation low-income Latino students at public 4-year universities in Southern California. It sought to determine how academic scholarship programs contribute to the development of financial and social capital and the persistence of first-generation Latino students. Data were gathered by surveying first-generation low-income Latino students attending public 4-year universities in Southern California who were scholars in an academic scholarship program.

Additionally, interviews were conducted with five survey respondents to further understand the nature of the programming offered by the academic scholarship program, the value they perceive such programming to have, and how they perceive their success in the academic scholarship program to be evaluated. Findings demonstrated that academic scholarship programs do contribute to the acquisition of financial and social capital for first-generation low-income Latino students and hence their persistence. They also demonstrated that while academic scholarship programs support the acquisition of dominant forms of social capital, they play a pivotal role in the persistence of low-income Latino students in the absence of culturally relevant pedagogy at universities.

**4:30-5:00**

**Putting Grief Into Action**

Deborah Nelson

My youngest daughter, Monique Roxanna Nelson, was killed on December 14, 2010, protecting her two-year old son during a gun battle between two rival gangs. During my journey to recovery, I found an organization called Moms Demand Action that provided me with the opportunity to become a leader for the gun safety movement. This presentation will focus on my personal journey and what Moms Demand Action offers to eradicate the culture of violence that currently exists in this nation.

### **5:00-5:30**

#### **Make it or Bake it: Recipes For Transitional Foster Youth-A Book Signing**

Sonya Carey, Debra Warner, and Serena Hamilton

*Make It or Bake It* is a cookbook for everyone, but it was written specifically for foster youth to assist their journey of healing and independence. Many foster youths do not gain the social and life skills needed for adult life while they are in the foster system. Once they are out of the foster system, they are left to learn what they lack on their own. The author, a former foster youth herself, wrote this book from her heart and her desire to help other displaced individuals. Food symbolizes nurturance, safety and the essence of life. Learning the skill of cooking for oneself and others can help heal the wounds of abuse and trauma and assist in continuing the journey toward a positive, healthy and productive life outcome. This book is for all foster youth and anyone who has ever felt displaced and lost. The message of this book says you are SPECIAL, and you can BE and DO ANYTHING!

### **5:30-6:00**

#### **Minority Psychology Today**

Successful Brim, Dominique Lloyd

Founded in 2019, the Minority Psychology Network (MPN) is committed to reducing the stigma surrounding mental health in minority communities through education and expanded access to culturally competent behavioral health providers. MPN's mobile mental health unit, launching this spring, will bring culturally competent behavioral health care providers directly into underserved Los Angeles neighborhoods.

### **6:00-6:30**

#### **“Bullying and Cyberbullying: How to be an upstander in your communities.”**

Sarah Cruz, Karyna Gonzalez

Our workshop goals will include educating the youth on the following: how to seek support, current trends, cyberbullying and bullying information, bullying laws, and the effects of bullying. We will also address case studies of bullying incidents that led to new laws being developed. The conference objectives align with our goals as we will be providing youth with skills and strategies to empower themselves and peers about bullying and cyberbullying. We will model for them

how to be upstanders, ask for help, advocate for themselves and peers. Youth will learn how to use their voice in regards to bullying and cyberbullying. Youth will have the opportunity to engage with presenters by participating in activities throughout the presentation. Most importantly youth will learn how to “Rise Up Against Bullying!”.

### **6:30-7:00**

#### **Self-Care Lab Presents: Using Exercise to Address Past Trauma**

Nita Watson

Exercise is not only good for physical health, but for mental health as well. It helps improve depression, builds self-esteem, allows for social interactions, increases control of impulsive behaviors, and reduces stress and anxiety. This interactive workshop will teach the fundamentals of exercise and show the impact it can have on the body and mind. You will not want to miss this!

### **7:00-7:30**

#### **Happy Hour**

We will miss our party at The Revolving Lounge but this is sure to be a blast! So, grab your favorite beverage and join us for a virtual Happy Hour.

### **Saturday, July 17th**

### **9:00-10:30**

#### **Black Lives and Solutions**

Moderators: Debra Warner

Panelist: Paul Acosta, Aquil Basheer, Tory Johnson, Jim McDonnell and Cheryl Moody

This panel focuses on the crisis we have today pertaining to police/law enforcement perceptions through a historic lens. It focuses on the history of minority and police perceptions along with community support and interventions. A discussion regarding BLM will be the focus with the differences regarding the movements with representatives from the Black Panther Party, police/law enforcement from different disciplines and a BLM representative. Question and answer session to follow.

1. How has the world today changed over the decades from your personal and professional experience?
2. What are the similarities and differences pertaining to the Black Panther Movement, Civil Rights, BLM and how does it affect community policing?
3. Why is this discussion important?
4. What do we do; how do we fix this?

### **10:30-11:00**

#### **Exploring or Exploited?: The Exchange Between Money & Sex**

Andrew Pari, Julia Shiffman

Explore what ethical sex work means in a world that often frowns on “the oldest profession.” Experts in sex work and human trafficking discuss the history, motivations, legality, choice, and consent amongst modern-day sex workers. Understand the role you can play in addressing this complex and pervasive issue in the U.S., North America, and around the world.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Participants will gain the definitions for sex work & trafficking.
2. Participants will have knowledge about sex worker history.
3. Participants will gain knowledge about 3 types of social policy addressing decriminalization.
4. Participants will gain knowledge about resources & organizations involved in sex work.
5. Participants will gain knowledge about how they can become involved and support sex work resources & policy

### **11:00-12:00**

#### **Suicidality and Depression: Assessment, Dynamics, Prevention, and Treatment**

Michael Levittan

In 2018, more than 48,000 people committed suicide in the United States, which amounts to approximately 129 per day. Every hour, at least 5 people in this country are killing themselves and this rate has been slowly increasing for the last decade. This workshop presents the indicators and risk factors of suicidality, as well as the psychological, relational, and neurobiological dynamics of depression. Diagnostic and assessment instruments of both depression and suicide are reviewed and applied in case studies. Causes of suicide are explored, including PTSD, bipolar disorder, substance abuse, sexual harassment and assault, isolation, bullying, etc. Unique perspectives to understand and manage symptoms are presented. Lastly and most importantly, specific moment-to-moment interventions of treatment are delineated to help patients work-through depression and suicidal feelings.

#### **Learning Objectives**

1. To review relevant data on suicidality with respect to year, age, ethnicity, gender, etc.
2. To describe risk factors and indicators of suicide, in terms of both immediacy and severity.

3. To provide definitions, theories, and psychological, relational, and neurobiological dynamics of depression.
4. To describe various perspectives of symptoms of depression, with particular attention given to probabilities of suicidality.
5. To explore underlying causes of both depression and suicide.
6. To provide a treatment plan, as well as practical interventions for treatment of suicidality.
7. To provide methods to facilitate the mourning process of losing a family member or close friend to suicide.

### **12:00-12:30**

#### **Introduction to Services: The Keepers of the Children**

Sonny

Bikers Against Child Abuse, Inc. (B.A.C.A.) exists with the intent to create a safer environment for abused children. We exist as a body of bikers to empower children to not feel afraid of the world in which they live. We stand ready to lend support to our wounded friends by involving them with an established, united organization. We work in conjunction with local and state officials who are already in place to protect children. We desire to send a clear message to all involved with the abused child that this child is part of our organization, and that we are prepared to lend our physical and emotional support to them by affiliation and our physical presence. We stand ready to shield these children from further abuse. We do not condone the use of violence or physical force in any manner, however, if circumstances arise such that we are the only obstacle preventing a child from further abuse, we stand ready to be that obstacle.

### **12:30-1:30**

#### **California's Racial Justice Act (RJA)**

Adam Vining

The Racial Justice Act became law on January 1, 2021. The act seeks to remedy disparities in charging and sentencing practices. While the law as it stands only applies to current and future criminal cases, another pending bill seeks to make it retroactive. The presentation will address if and how the RJA works.

### **1:30-2:00**

#### **Trauma Inclusive Healing: Pivoting from Broken to Wholeness**

Crystal Hernandez

Trauma occurs far too frequently in marginalized populations, impacting life courses. This session will discuss ways to move from broken to wholeness, altering the physical, emotional, psychological, and social health of the individual. "We lose our choice and voice, when trauma occurs." We seek to recapture the power of individuals impacted by trauma.

### **2:00-3:00**

#### **Microaggressions: What are they and what can we do about them?**

Cris Scaglione

This interactive talk will define microaggression and its physical, social, and psychological effects. Further discussion will focus on strategies to reduce microaggressions and their impact. Will involve lecture plus group discussion. Suitable for anyone with an interest in microaggression, including students and professionals.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the definition and nature of microaggression.
2. Identify the many costs of microaggression to our physical and mental health, and society at large.
3. Recognize the many ways in which we, and others perpetuate microaggressions.

### **3:00-3:30** How Can Leaders Support Social Change in 2021?

Felicia Reed

In this open dialog discussion, we will discover ways in which leaders in various positions and roles can embrace and support social change during this time of opportunity. We will discover what is working and share insight on specific practices and concepts of societal change management.

### **3:30-4:30**

#### **Rape Kits and the Power of Truth**

Moderator: Debra Warner

Panel: Paul Acosta, Tristin Engels, Kandee Lewis

Rape kits have helped overturn many cases of the wrongfully convicted and have also assisted with finding justice for survivors. However, many people do not know how and why the rape kit was developed and how it assists law enforcement and attorneys. This panel will explore the origin of the rape kit from the granddaughter of the creator and learn its need in the investigative system. It will discuss the topic from many different professional perspectives and also examine why there are over 400,000 still unprocessed rape kits.

- 1) What are rape kits and why are they so important for your area of expertise?
- 2) From your background and experience, why were there so many wrongly convicted individuals and what does that do to the survivors (the victim and falsely accused)?

- 3) Why are there so many unprocessed rape kits?
- 4) Is there a multicultural component to this topic?
- 5) Is there anything currently being done that can make this a better process?
- 6) In your opinion, what should be the focus of this community/global collaboration to assist with change?

#### **4:30-5:00**

#### **Trauma, Resilience, and Psychological Interventions for Latinx Survivors**

Lorena Vazquez Santiago

During the training to become psychologists, we learn the basic tools required to assist others. Depending on the clinical skills, basics isn't necessarily the only resource that we need. Recognizing the trauma, resilience, and the psychological interventions, is important, it is also important to understand the cultural baggage the person brings to treatment.

#### **5:00-5:30**

#### **Closing Remarks**

Moderators: Debra Warner and Aquil Basheer

Closing Speakers: Robert Hernandez and Dulce Acosta

The closing ceremony will discuss the nature of the 7<sup>th</sup> annual SCRIPT conference and this year's theme of Community Collaboration. The 2020 Hope Awards will be given, followed by the closing address and remarks.

#### **5:30-6:00**

#### **Book Signing: "Pasado de Él, Historia de Ella"**

Debra Warner, Rosa L. Rodriguez, Lorena Vazquez Santiago, Olivia Garcia, Elizabeth Munoz Islas, Alma Lopez, Lorena Rodriguez and Erica Solis

Pasado de Él, Historia de Ella es el primer libro que explora el impacto del abuso sexual infantil masculino en las relaciones de adultos. Se dirige en ayudar a ambos la pareja de sobrevivientes del trauma y profesionales de salud mental, el libro está escrito desde la perspectiva única de la Dra. Debra Warner, una líder norteamericana en psicología forense en el campo del trauma masculino quien está casada con un sobreviviente al trauma.

Dra. Warner es una de las pocas mujeres especializadas en trauma masculino, comparte ambas perspectivas su historia y la de su esposo, según ellos pasan por el camino de la recuperación y sanación. Utilizando la sabiduría que ha obtenido desde la experiencia tanto personal como profesional, ella le provee una dirección manos a la obra, considerando ambas perspectivas: esposa y psicóloga forense para ayudar a los sobrevivientes y a sus parejas a mejor hacia la relación rica y satisfactoria que ellos merecen.

Para los profesionales de salud mental, este libro representa un recurso innovador que explora en detalle el fenómeno del trauma masculino y los problemas

asociados. Contiene una recopilación amplia de artículos por psicólogos líderes y profesionales que trabajan en el campo del trauma masculino y las relaciones.

### **6:00-6:30**

#### **Self-Care Lab Presents: Using Exercise to Address Past Trauma**

Nita Watson

Exercise is not only good for physical health, but for mental health as well. It helps improve depression, builds self-esteem, allows for social interactions, increases control of impulsive behaviors, and reduces stress and anxiety. This interactive workshop will teach the fundamentals of exercise and show the impact it can have on the body and mind. You will not want to miss this!

### **6:30-7:00pm**

#### **Happy Hour**

We will miss our party at the Revolving Lounge but this is sure to be a blast! So, grab your favorite beverage and join us for a virtual Happy Hour.

### **Biographies**

#### **Keynote Speaker**

**Deputy Chief Blake Chow**

**LAPD**

Deputy Chief Blake Chow was appointed to the Los Angeles Police Department in 1990 after having served as a San Jose Police Reserve Officer. After graduating from the Los Angeles Police Department academy, he was assigned to Operations as a Police Officer, Sergeant and Lieutenant in the Pacific, Central, Rampart, Southwest and Southeast Areas.

Chow was promoted to Captain-I in May 2003 and assigned as the Commanding Officer, Central Patrol Division. With this promotion, he became the highest-ranking Chinese-American officer in the LAPD and the first Asian captain assigned to the Central Area. In this position, he provided leadership and management to a patrol force of approximately 250 officers.

In May 2005, Chow was promoted to Captain II, Commanding Officer, LAX Field Services Division. In this assignment, he manages the LAPD officers assigned to LAX who address crime and airport safety and transportation issues, including terrorism.

In December 2005, Captain Chow was promoted to Captain III, Commanding Officer, RACR Division. The RACR Division is LAPD's first 24/7 fusion/information processing center. RACR operates as a 24/7 emergency operations center where resources, situation status of the city and developing tactical incidents are tracked. Additionally, RACR personnel also provide detective support to areas and complete analysis on emerging crime patterns 24/7. RACR Division maintains liaison with other local, county, state and federal agencies.

In May 2007, he was assigned as the Area Commanding Officer for the Hollenbeck Area.

In March 2009 he was transferred as the Area Commanding Officer at Central Area. This assignment involved leading approximately 430 employees both sworn and civilian in the Downtown Los Angeles Area. This community includes Staples/LA Live, Financial District, Historic Core, Civic Center, Skid Row, Artist Lofts area, Chinatown, Little Tokyo and the Fashion District.

In December 2009, Chow was promoted to Commander and assigned as the Assistant Commanding Officer, Operations-Central Bureau, which has command of Central Area, Rampart Area, Hollenbeck Area, Newton Area and Northeast Area.

In October 2010, Commander Chow was transferred as the Assistant Commander Officer Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau. The Bureau is responsible for the Counter Terrorism programs, Major Crimes Division, Emergency Services Division, Bomb Squad, Hazardous Materials, Metropolitan Division (SWAT, K9, Mounted), Air Support Division and Emergency Operations Division.

In January 2015, Chow was assigned as the Assistant Commanding Officer, Operations-West Bureau. In this capacity, he has responsibility over Hollywood Area, Pacific Area, West Los Angeles Area, Wilshire Area, Olympic Area and West Traffic Division. The Bureau covers approximately 125 square miles in which approximately 900,000 residents reside.

Chow was raised in San Jose, California. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Finance from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and a master's degree in Public Administration from California State University Fullerton. He is also a graduate of the West Point Leadership Program.

#### Closing Speakers

##### **Dulce Acosta**

##### **University of Southern California**

Ms. Acosta was born to parents who migrated from Mexico and was raised in the Northeast Los Angeles area. Dulce began her academic journey within various LAUSD academic institutions, and at the age of seventeen she successfully completed high school and received vocational certification in the health field. She entered the competitive workforce at the age of nineteen. Dulce became employed by University of Southern California Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry, where she currently administrates online education.

Dulce pledged to continue her academic career and returned ten years later to ELAC and received her Associate Degree in Liberal Arts and Certification as a Recovery Specialist in Chemical Dependency. Dulce transferred to Cal State University Los Angeles in the fall of 2009, where she received her B.A. in Sociology with an emphasis in Diversity and Inequalities in 2011. While attending CSULA, she also served as a peer advisor in the Sociology Department. She was recognized for her contributions to CSULA and her community by her advisor and received a Special Congressional Recognition by Congresswoman Lucille Roybal Allard in March 2011. In addition, she was awarded and recognized in the "Latinas to Watch for 2012" by Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE). She pursued her lifelong dream of a Master's in Social Work at the University of Southern California, where in May 2014 she completed her

studies and was awarded the Order of Arête of USC; she was selected from more than 1,500 graduate students university wide. The award represents the highest honor accorded graduate students upon completion of their academic program. Students are recognized for demonstrating significant depth and scope of responsibility in a campus or community leadership role. Members of the Order of Arête uphold value and meaning over individual achievement. Dulce is committed to strengthening and empowering her community by serving as a mentor and sharing her journey and narrative of resilience and trauma.

### **Robert Hernandez, MSW, DS**

Robert Hernandez aims to educate and engage in practice-driven research to address critical areas of society that continue to hinder communities from flourishing. His areas of interest include vulnerable youth populations, adolescent social issues, adolescent gang intervention, strength-based resilience and youth empowerment models of practice. In particular, Hernandez's work examines risk and protective factors within communities that are associated with vulnerable youth populations residing in trauma-exposed communities. He has focused on advancing marginalized populations through a range of practice approaches addressing violence-related trauma through violence reduction, prevention and intervention strategies. As a practitioner and evaluator, Hernandez has worked with various street youth populations in areas ranging from San Jose, California, to his hometown of Los Angeles. He also served on the Community Engagement Ad-Hoc Committee on Gang Violence and Youth Development, headed by then-District 6 Councilman Tony Cardenas. He contributed to the creation of "Two Prong Approach," the city's community-based gang intervention model. Hernandez currently serves on the National Juvenile Justice Network, which is composed of coalitions and organizations that advocate for juvenile reform. Much of his work centers on community violence prevention and intervention. He also is cofounder and executive director of Visionary Youth Center, Inc. At USC, Hernandez teaches Leadership in the Social Work Profession and Organizations: Theory and Practice; Policy and Practice in Social Service Organizations; Social Work Practice with Families, Groups and Complex Cases; Social Work and Law; and Adolescent Gang Intervention.

### Presenters

#### **Assistant Chief Paul L. Acosta**

Chief Acosta began his law enforcement career in 1991 in North Carolina and joined the Miami Beach Police Department in 1995. He has served in a variety of capacities and positions of rank including: Major of the Criminal Investigations Division, Patrol Captain, Executive Officer of the North Beach area, Commander of Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), liaison to the Office of Emergency Management, special events, support services, and patrol operations. Acosta has also served as a trainer for a number of disciplines within the department. His most recent assignment was as the Patrol Major in charge of the Operations Division of the MBPD. Chief Acosta has received numerous honors and awards during his career including the Miami Beach Police Department's Life Saving Award and Exceptional Service Award. He is a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps and was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon and the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Chief Acosta graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy 278th Session and served as the graduation spokesperson. He has also completed the Leadership in Police Organizations Course, the Senior Management Institute for

Police program at Boston University and has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Management from Union Institute and University.

### **George Boykins**

#### **FBI Los Angeles Supervisory Special Agent, Violent Crimes Unit**

George Boykins is a native of Brooklyn, New York, and raised in Southern California due to his parents' military service. George earned a Bachelor's degree in Family, Child, & Consumer Sciences, with a concentration in Education from Florida State University. He went on to earn a Master's degree in Criminal Justice at the University of Central Florida. George has had a lifelong calling to public service. He worked as a counselor at a group home with a juvenile probation program, served as a middle school educator, child abuse investigator, police officer, undercover drug detective, SWAT, crisis intervention, field training officer, and bike officer. George has been with FBI Los Angeles since 2009 and currently serves as the Supervisory Special Agent overseeing Violent Crime Investigations in Los Angeles and Orange County. George is also an Adjunct Professor with Santa Ana College teaching Organized Crime since 2018.

### **Successful Brim**

#### **Founder and CEO, MPN**

Successful Brim is the founder and CEO of the Minority Psychology Network (MPN), she started in 2019 with the goal of reducing the stigma surrounding mental health in minority communities through culturally aligned education and outreach. Today, she is leading the members of MPN as they build a nationwide network of minority mental health professionals and advocates, helping to expand access to high-quality behavioral health care and bringing new opportunities to youth who are interested in the field of psychology. A native of Dallas, Texas, Successful earned a Bachelor's degree from Howard University and earned her Master's degree in Forensic Psychology. Currently, she resides in Los Angeles, where she is pursuing a doctorate in clinical forensic psychology.

### **Sonya Carey**

#### **USC**

Sonya Carey was a former foster youth who moved several times in a four-year period before being adopted by one of her foster families. At the age of twenty-seven, she went back to college to pursue a degree in Baking and Pastry (A.S) and Hospitality Food and Beverage Management (B.S.). She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Hospitality and Tourism at the University of Southern California. Most recently, she worked as a Food Service Manager, overseeing several food service locations. She has more than fifteen years of experience in the food service industry.

### **Sarah Cruz**

#### **San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center: Bullying & School Violence Advocacy Program**

Sarah Cruz has been working with children and families in the Mental Health field for the past 10 years as a Mental Health Counselor. Sarah currently works with the San Fernando Valley

Community Mental Health Center in the Bullying and School Violence Advocacy Program, where she continues to work as a is a Mental Health Counselor. Within her role she is an Educator, Advocate and Presenter of all things pertaining to Bullying. Sarah enjoys educating the community about the impact of bullying and how we can help one another to rise up against bullying.

### **Nikko Deloney**

#### **P.C.I.T.I Leadership Team**

Nikko is a dedicated member of the P.C.I.T.I Leadership and Instructional Team. He has spent the past few years of his life assisting in restoring besieged communities locally and regionally. Currently, he manages the Pico Guidance Center in Mid-City Los Angeles and provides services ranging from youth development, intervention/prevention sessions, mentoring, community feed-the-needs, and a host of others. His mission truly defines the work of providing hope, restoring communities and curbing violence through proactive solutions and self-determination as it relates to the field of Community Violence Intercession.

### **Tristin Engels, Psy.D.**

Dr. Tristin Engels is the maternal granddaughter of Louis R. Vitullo, the man who co-invented the rape kit. Growing up just outside of Chicago, she spent every Sunday, holidays, and school vacations with her grandfather at his home in Cary, Illinois. Dr. Engels was inspired by her grandfather's life and accomplishments. In 2009, she moved to California to attend graduate school. In 2013, she completed her degree and became a forensic psychologist. She has worked with juveniles and adults within the criminal justice system, both incarcerated and on parole or probation. She now treats offenders with significantly long, violent, and sexually deviant histories with the hopes of addressing maladaptive behavioral patterns, identifying undiagnosed mental illnesses, and ultimately reducing their risk of reoffending.

### **Karyna Gonzalez**

#### **San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center: Bullying & School Violence Advocacy Program**

Karyna has been an active advocate for at-risk youth and families for over 20 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services and is trained in Bullying and School Violence Advocacy. Karyna is certified in domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. As a mental health counselor II for the Bullying and School Violence Advocacy Program through the San Fernando Community Mental Health Center, Inc., she supports victims and families seeking healthy and supportive solutions to their needs. Ms. Gonzalez's professional experiences regularly garner both local and international speaking opportunities to share her overall leadership philosophies and team-building strategies. Ms. Gonzalez strongly promotes the idea that the development of healthy families leads to healthy communities. In furtherance of this goal, Ms. Gonzalez educates and mentors community leaders to cultivate programs that promote the well-being of all individuals within their communities.

### **Danielle Green**

#### **A & E**

Danielle holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree from Carleton College and was a Producing Fellow at the American Film Institute. She also holds two leadership certificates from the Los Angeles

African American Women Public Policy Institute and the Annenberg Alchemy leadership development program. She began her career in Production Finance at Showtime Networks where she spent 10 years in Programming Finance as an analyst and manager. Prior to Showtime, She spent 5 years as a Production Accountant, and Controller working with various third party production service entities.

Danielle is the current Vice President of the National Association of Multi-ethnicity in Communications. Her current role is to create educational programs and networking opportunities for its members. From 2018-2020, Danielle served as board treasurer for NAMIC managing sponsorship and partnerships to build Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives to educate, advocate, and empower professionals of the cable television industry. Her leadership role also extends to serving as a board advisor to Diamond In the Raw, a nonprofit organization that empowers at-risk girls to transform their lives through S.T.E.A.M education. As a current Finance Executive, Danielle oversees budgeting and reporting of media assets for A+E Networks. As Director, Danielle directs and models processes and procedures for reporting, and estimating to communicate financial costs, and trends.

### **McCall Hall**

McCall Hall, hailing from Seattle, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington and a Master's of Business degree from the University of Southern California. She prides herself on staying ahead of the curve in the trends of sports, business, and pop culture. Her passion for sports business and media made her an asset to the Seattle Supersonics, the Seattle Storm, and the Los Angeles Sparks, as well as ABC, NBC, The Metropolitan Opera, NBA Entertainment, and the 2015 Special Olympics World Games. She currently serves as the Director of Community Outreach for the University of Southern California Athletic Department. During her tenure of service for USC, Hall manages a multi-million dollar endowment for community relations. Her leadership builds strong partnerships and programs amplified by the service of over 600 student-athletes to serve the Los Angeles community. Over the course of her career, Hall has come to the conclusion that athletes should use their platforms to benefit less fortunate communities, and she has developed a variety of programs to help them do exactly that.

### **Martice Hawkins**

#### **FBI Los Angeles Community Outreach Specialist**

Martice is a native of Louisiana and attended LSU where she completed a dual major, earning a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Bachelor of Arts in History. Martice went on to attend Louisiana Tech University earning a Master of Arts in History. Prior to the FBI, Martice worked as a high school educator in the DC area where she taught history and public speaking.

Martice has been with the FBI for 5 years and is currently assigned to the FBI Los Angeles Office of Public and Congressional Affairs as a Community Outreach Specialist, serving as the primary liaison for African American, Hispanic, and LGBTQ+ communities. In her role, she collaborates with faith-based and community organizations to bring awareness to issues impacting their respective communities while connecting communities and organizations to the FBI's public resources and community engagement programs. Martice also works with a variety

of youth engagement non-profit organizations, introducing youths to the FBI and the various career paths available.

**Crystal Hernandez, Psy.D., MBA.**

**Hospital Administrator**

Dr. Crystal Hernandez was born and raised in California and has worked within the mental health, social service, and justice field for 2 decades. She is a Native American Latina who was born to a teenage mother and grew up in a rural agricultural community in the Central Valley. Dr. Hernandez has witnessed her father's continued struggles with addiction and justice involvement, as well as many relatives and close childhood friends. She has dedicated her life to advocacy, inclusion, and service. She is now living on tribal land in Oklahoma and serving as the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital Administrator for the sole forensic hospital in Oklahoma.

**Robert Hernandez, MSW, DSW**

**University of Southern California**

Dr. Hernandez has a strong knowledge base in working with vulnerable youth populations and the impact of community trauma on healthy development. He aims to educate and engage in practice-driven research to address critical areas of society that continue to hinder communities from flourishing. His areas of interest include adolescent social issues, adolescent gang intervention, strength-based/resiliency and youth empowerment models of practice. In particular, Hernandez's work examines risk and protective factors within communities that are associated with vulnerable youth populations residing in trauma-exposed communities. He has focused on advancing marginalized populations through a range of practice approaches addressing violence related trauma through violence reduction, prevention and intervention strategies. In 2014, Hernandez was awarded the highly acclaimed Jane Adams Award at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work that goes to the instructor of the year as voted by the students. In 2014, he was recognized and awarded by the Asian Pacific American Student Assembly & Academic Culture Assembly as the most influential Professor of Color. He is constantly being summoned by cities, counties, and states nationwide to assist with their community violence reduction strategies and trainings; most recently Iowa, New Mexico, South Carolina, Sacramento, San Diego, Solano County, Orange County, Riverside, Ontario, and Los Angeles. These efforts have assisted in the development of several publications.

**Barbara Jett**

**Phenomenal Angels of the Community**

Barbara Jett is the Chief Operations Officer for Phenomenal Angels of the Community, an organization that provides youth support, mentoring and training opportunities that provide cultural enrichment, effective communication, civic engagement, educational enhancement, and individual development. Ms. Jett is responsible for the delivery and operations of the organization. Through her love for the community and potential to inspire change, Ms. Jett is on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. She is a trained experienced professional Intervention Specialist specializing in community service, crisis intervention, case management and street mediation. She has worked in the non-profit community for many years. Ms. Jett developed a strong sense of devotion for the non-profit sector when she noticed that a change was needed in the community in which she was raised. She has a deep appreciation for people and is diligent in working to improve the quality of life. Ms. Jett is an active member in her

community. She is on the leadership team and is an instructor for Professional Community Intervention Training Institute (PCITI). She is a member of the Neighborhood Action Committee and the Westmont/Athens Task Force. Currently, she is a case manager with Soledad Enrichment Action Charter School. Ms. Jett is a graduate of Washington Prep and studied at Los Angeles Southwest College. She is a certified graduate of the Professional Community Intervention Training Institute. Additionally, she has received certificates from the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office, City of Los Angeles Fire Department, Maximum Force Enterprises, The Chicago School of Psychology, Yuba College, Leo Chesney Center of Live Oaks and Los Angeles Office of Education.

**Tory Johnson**  
**Black Lives Matter**

Mr. Tory Johnson was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. He attended Indiana Wesleyan University and Ivy Tech Community college majoring in early childhood education. He then moved to Huntington Beach and became a private historian of its culture. This knowledge assisted him in working to reduce racism. In 2020, due to the death of George Floyd, he formed BLM Huntington Beach (BLM-HB). Mr. Johnson has finally reached the point in his life where he feels he is doing his life's purpose. He is dedicated to growing the BLM-HB chapter and continuing the fight against racism. His dedication and passion for making real change has led him to run for city council in 2022.

**Cindy Kao, Psy.D.**  
**Private Practice**

Dr. Kao (she/her) is a second-generation, Taiwanese-American as well as a Licensed Professional Counselor/Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor with her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. She has worked with a wide range of populations including: military families, community mental health, at-risk youth, substance abuse, perpetrators and survivors of domestic violence, and geriatric populations. She has also worked as a professor of Psychology at both the graduate and undergraduate level, currently as a lecturer at California State University of Monterey Bay. In her clinical practice, she has a passion for facilitating her client's journey through life, and emphasizes the need for authentic connection between client and therapist. As a professor, mentor, and clinician, Dr. Kao is keen to look at a person's unique lived experience and how it intersects with the systematic nature of culture, systems, and historical factors. She has presented at conferences, conducted professional training events and community workshops, and has been interviewed for radio programs, podcasts, and publications.

**Eric Kung, Psy.D.**  
**Private Practice**

Dr. Kung is a self-employed psychologist who contracts with a variety of public and private entities to provide mental health services and consultations. Dr. Kung has experience in a wide range of fields including crisis/trauma management, corporate consultations, forensic evaluations/consultations, program development/evaluation, medical psychology, research psychology and education.

**Michael Levittan**  
**Discovery Tours**

### **Private Practice**

Dr. Michael Levittan is an accomplished and recognized expert on domestic violence, anger management, child abuse, and PTSD. He is a licensed psychotherapist, director of a state-certified batterers' treatment program, and serves as an expert witness in court. Dr. Michael teaches seminars at UCLA Extension, National Alliance on Mental Illness, International Conference on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma, Women's Shelters, U.S. Marines, L.A. Superior Court, California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, etc. He has appeared on the Tyra Banks Show, Starting Over, Bad Girls Club, Montel Williams, Hollywood 411, and wrote "The History of Infanticide" – a chapter in Violence in Our Society. He recently completed the soon-to-be-published "Essentials of Anger Management." Dr. Levittan believes in his work to further the cause of establishing safety in the family and peace in the world. His passion comes across in his presentations.

### **Kandee Lewis, M.A.**

#### **Positive Results Corporation**

Kandee Rochelle Lewis, executive director of Positive Results Center (PRC) and founder of Black Women Leaders of Los Angeles, is a certified domestic violence, sexual assault, and suicide awareness prevention advocate, addressing trauma from a cultural and age perspective. Through trainings for youth and parents, facilitated events, and the creation of youth-peer advocacy programs, Ms. Lewis provides tools and strategies to form and maintain healthy, productive relationships.

While Ms. Lewis focused PRC's work on Southern California's youth, she also led PRC to create a broader support system across the nation for youth wellness and relationship success. Through partnerships with K-12 schools, colleges, health care, law enforcement, judicial, government, community & faith-based organizations, training them to recognize and deal effectively with trauma BIPOC youth and Ms. Lewis's work is well recognized. The LA County Board of Supervisors named Ms. Lewis Woman of the Year in 2017. Vanguard recognized her as a Most Influential African American in Los Angeles in 2018. In 2019 she received the Champion of Peace & Non-Violence Award, the Trailblazers Award, and Community Plus Award. Other awards include the Johnnie L. Cochran Award for Youth Violence Prevention and 2015 Woman of the Year.

Ms. Lewis has trained with the National Association of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault, California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and the Women of Color Network. She has been a member of the Los Angeles City Council's Domestic Violence Roundtable and Mayor Eric Garcetti's Human Trafficking Portal.

Born and raised in Los Angeles and married for over 38 years, Ms. Lewis and her husband Carl have three adult children and a pit bull/boxer.

### **Dominique Lloyd**

#### **Board Member, Minority Psychology Network**

Dominique Lloyd has been a board member of MPN since 2020. She is now a committee chair for the Spirituality and Mental Health committee and Committee Outreach committee.

Dominique Lloyd earned her bachelors' degree from Quincy University in Psychology with a

minor in Criminal Justice. She is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in Clinical Forensic Psychology.

As a Los Angeles native, she is motivated by giving back to her community. She hosts toiletry and food drives monthly for the homeless on Skid Row. She aspires to have her own nonprofit that can provide more services to individuals in need.

### **Jim McDonnell**

#### **Retired Los Angeles County Sheriff**

Jim recently retired after serving for almost forty years in public safety. In 2014, McDonnell was elected as the 32nd Sheriff of Los Angeles County, the largest sheriff's department in the United States, leading over 18,000 employees and managing an annual budget of over \$3.3 billion. McDonnell took over an agency that had been seriously impacted by scandal and in a four-year term was able to restore public trust, institutionalize systems of accountability and work collaboratively and effectively with federal, state and local partners.

Mr. McDonnell served for twenty-nine years with the Los Angeles Police Department, holding every rank up to First Assistant Chief of Police. He worked a wide variety of assignments in his career, including homicide, gangs, organized crime, vice, patrol operations and community policing. McDonnell retired from LAPD in 2010 to become the Chief of the Long Beach Police Department, where he served for five years. He is the first person to serve in senior executive leadership positions in the three largest policing agencies in Los Angeles County.

Mr. McDonnell is a respected voice on local, state, and national criminal justice issues, having served as Vice President of the Major County Sheriffs of America, a member of the Major Cities Chiefs Association and previously as President of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association, President of the California Peace Officers' Association, a member of the California Commission on Peace Officers' Standards & Training (POST), and a board member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Peace Officers' Association of Los Angeles County.

McDonnell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California. He is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Executive Institute and has completed executive education programs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Mr. McDonnell formed McDonnell Strategies Group in early 2019 to advise clients across the nation on a diverse range of public safety issues.

### **Melinda Meshad, LCSW**

Melinda Meshad, LCSW, has over twenty years working with individuals and families. She has focused her career serving populations with high rates of trauma. She found her passion in social work while attending Occidental College and volunteering in Los Angeles with asylum-seekers escaping war in Central America. Her experience includes teaching incarcerated youth, ten years in child welfare, and clinical backup for veteran crisis lines. She currently sees clients in private

practice while training and consulting in trauma-informed care. Her training, 4 Points Builds a STAR, has been recognized for providing a thorough understanding of the impact of adverse experiences and trauma in order to promote wellbeing through self-care and client engagement based on trauma-informed principles.

**Commander Cheryl Moody**  
**Pasadena Police Department**

Commander Cheryl Moody was born in Kansas City, MO, but grew up in Long Beach . After high school, Cheryl served for 3 years in the U.S. Air Force as a reservist. Cheryl was a fingerprint classifier at Long Beach Police Department prior to joining the Pasadena Police Department as an officer on August 28, 1992. During her career with Pasadena PD, she has worked several assignments including Patrol, Neighborhood Crime Task Force, Research & Development, Police Activities League, the Special Enforcement Section, (where she was the first female Sergeant to complete SWAT school), Detectives, Employment Services and Internal Affairs and prior to her promotion to Commander, served as the department’s SWAT Commander. Cheryl is one of the founding members of the San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), which started in 2003. Cheryl is a former Region-6 Vice President, which covers six western states, and she was also a member of the NOBLE Executive Board. Cheryl obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University Long Beach in Emergency Management, and her Master’s degree in Organizational Leadership from Woodbury University. Cheryl is the proud mother of two adult sons, Derek and Justin.

**Deborah Nelson**

Deborah Nelson is a retired educator and author who has dedicated her life to her family and to inner-city school communities that she served. Raised as a preacher’s daughter in Iowa, Ms. Nelson received a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University in Sacramento and a Master’s degree from National University. She served as principal at David Lubin Elementary School and Parkway Elementary School, both in Sacramento. During her tenure at Parkway, she was credited with leading the school to achieve a dramatic rise in student achievement points on state testing; Parkway was subsequently recognized as an Honorable Mention School for the 2007-08 Title 1 Academic Achievement Award (AAA) from the State Department of Education.

During Ms. Nelson’s time as a principal, she was awarded the Outstanding Educational Leadership Award by the Sacramento Alliance of Black School Educators in 2003; the Distinguished Educators Award by the Sacramento Observer Media Group in 2004; the Education Advocate Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. in 2006; the Superintendent’s Personal Excellence Award and Contribution to the Development of Aspiring Young Minds in 2007, and the 2008 Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 3 Silver Star Award.

On December 14, 2010, Deborah’s youngest child, Monique Roxanne Nelson, was tragically murdered in Sacramento. In honor of her beloved daughter, Deborah wrote a memoir titled “*The Last Portrait: A Psalm for Monique.*” It is a riveting account of an extremely inspirational journey of life, love, love lost and a mother’s desperate struggle to fight her way out of the black

hole of grief and heartache. You will be fascinated to learn about her unbelievable journey from anger to healing to advocacy.

Her greatest achievement, however, has been raising three wonderful and gifted children: Richard, Tamora, and Monique. In addition, she is blessed with five beautiful grandchildren: Jayden, Rayonne, Mateo, Ethan, and Maya Monique. Deborah Nelson currently resides in Toluca Lake.

### **Raymond Nourmand, Ph.D.**

#### **Private Practice**

Dr. Raymond Nourmand is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in Los Angeles who provides private therapy to patients in California, Florida, Illinois, Nevada, and Washington. He maintains a direct, yet sensitive approach, specializing in getting to the root causes of his patients' problems. His informal, matter-of-fact style, insightful perspectives, and kind demeanor make him a highly sought-after therapist in the treatment of anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, relationship problems, parenting issues, and addictions.

### **Andrew Pari, LCSW**

#### **Discovery Tours**

#### **Sexual Assault Awareness**

Andrew Pari is a nationally recognized sexual assault trauma recovery expert known for his work in understanding the taboo of sexualized violence. Founder and Director of Sexual Assault Awareness, LLC, he is a psychotherapist with over 25 years' experience treating survivors, including specialized populations in the sex trade and trafficking victims.

His focus on the gaps that others in his field don't talk about has led to advances in sexual assault treatment earning him a reputation as one who won't shy away from many of the experiences with which sexual assault survivors struggle.

From his work on arousal and orgasm during sexualized violence to his unique understanding of how repetition compulsion moves survivors to re-enact their trauma, he remains focused on his mission to end shame in sexualized abuse and assault.

Andrew believes in and practices from a sex-positive, shame-free, science-based, feminist perspective. In addition to running his own agency, he is on the Board of the Center for Positive Sexuality and serves as the Program Director for their Sex-Positive Professional Certification. He serves on multiple planning committees for national conferences, including the Institute for Violence, Abuse, & Trauma (IVAT), and Embracing Diversity with GLBTQ+ Youth (EDGY). He consults and trains forensics and mental health professionals internationally, is available for expert testimony, and has developed national policy on sex work and the commercialized sex trade.

His wide and varied career has gone from working with gangs in South Los Angeles, to creating and leading the crisis response team for L.A. County Department of Mental Health, becoming one of the NASW's 1,000 Experts on sexual assault, disaster, and trauma, and spearheading the

first research on arousal during sexual assault and other “taboo” topics, all while continuing to serve girls and women suffering from abuse and assault.

Andrew has hosted the largest ever public discussions on topics related to sexual abuse and rape and is a moderator for forums on rape and recovery. He is a sought-after speaker at conferences on sexual trauma, including the National Conference on Crimes Against Women (CCA W), and International Society for the Study of Trauma & Dissociation (ISSTD). He was co-creator and host of the Los Angeles radio show, Chasing the Why, where he covered a wide range of social topics from the Japanese tsunami disaster to the international SlutWalk movement.

Andrew does enjoy down-time and practices the important principles of self-care through his singing, acting, and improvisational comedy. He sings a wide variety of Broadway songs...ask him to fire off a round of Hamilton’s “My Shot.” He's trained in comedic improvisation and has performed in and directed comedy troupes all around Los Angeles and in Hawaii. He won a Los Angeles regional theatre award in 2015 for his portrayal of Atticus Finch in “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

And, while he enjoys training and speaking on sexualized violence, challenging taboos, and using positive sexuality in recovery, please don't call him "The Rape Guy." Andrew is passionate and dedicated to the mission of addressing and ending sexualized violence.

### **Felicia Reed**

#### **Put It In Perspective, LLC**

Felicia Reed is a certified Life Purpose, Spiritual and Christian Coach, as well as a Holistic Wellness Advocate. Ms. Reed has realized in recent years that she is the product of a destructive toxic family upbringing, which led to adult abuse survivorship. She has survived every form of abuse starting at the age of 5 to age 51. Ms. Reed endured the final episode of abuse by her immediate family at 51, which included cyber misuse, gaslighting, emotional trauma, stalking, and a home invasion as part of a severe multi-layered attack. She now works with groups and individuals to promote positive and constructive life changes and healing modalities hoping to bring about self-awareness, inner peace, accountability and hope. She has a firm belief that the better we feel, the better we can live productive lives. Ms. Reed is a survivor of several life-altering traumatic experiences as a result of abuse and firmly believes that coaching and self-healing techniques saved her life. She understands building the required determination, willpower and desire through challenging times to move forward. She works to provide coaching and healing services to clients virtually and in person. Ms. Reed is also the WBTVN host of her “Females Without Fear Life Mastery” segments where she invites other females to share their stories of overcoming fear. Ms. Reed is a member of cyber consortiums, art leagues and domestic violence entities to bring awareness from a grassroots perspective as a survivor. She is an international speaker, fiber artist, instructor and a quality management professional. Ms. Reed welcomes opportunities to appear as a presenter, panelist, speaker, coach, artist, and moderator.

**Tommie Rivers****P.C.I.T.I. Leadership Team**

One refined and committed individual in restoring peace to traumatized and violent-prone communities, Tommie has re-dedicated his life to community restoration. He is an abundance of positivity in the lives of youth and young adults he touches. He is not only a member of the phenomenal Instructional and Leadership Team of P.C.I.T.I but he also coaches, speaks, and gives every bit of himself to his community and those in need.

**Cris Scaglione, Ph.D.****Discovery Tours****Private Practice**

Cris Scaglione, Ph.D. is a clinical psychologist with considerable experience in neuropsychology and rehabilitation, and both physical and psychological trauma. Her teaching and clinical work use a biopsychosocial approach.

**Julia Schiffman, M.A.****Discovery Tours****Private Practice**

Julia Schiffman is a Registered Associate Clinical Social Worker, psychotherapist, sex educator, and community activist. Julia earned her bachelor's degree from the University of San Diego in Theology and Religious Studies with an emphasis in Eastern Religion and earned her Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California. She received a dual-track certificate of completion in Sex Therapy & Sexuality Education from the Sexual Health Certificate Program (SHCP) at the University of Michigan.

In San Diego, California, Julia provides therapy services in her private practice where she focuses on trauma-informed and interpersonal issues with individuals, couples, and non-monogamous/polyamorous families. The population she serves are those from gender, sexually, and relationally diverse (GSRD) backgrounds. For more than a decade, she has volunteered for various causes, including the San Diego LGBT Community Center, and is the Outreach Coordinator and Board Member for the Center for Positive Sexuality.

**Carol Sligh****Author, Overcoming Obstacles and Living Your Dreams**

Carol Sligh is an author, speaker and philanthropist. She is focused on developing, encouraging and empowering men, women and children to walk in their God-given purpose. Carol believes every person has been placed on the earth for a reason. This reason is the core of who they are and embodies their individuality. She sets the groundwork for people to identify their dreams, then encourages and teaches them to live a life where those passions take precedence. She believes once this has happened, life will be more fulfilling for both them and those around them. In Carol's newly released book, "Overcoming Obstacles and Living Your Dreams," she reveals proven techniques in overcoming obstacles and facing adversity. She has over two decades of experience in law enforcement and almost a decade in corporate, industrial and government settings. Whether combating everyday crime or providing groups or individuals with guidance on how to navigate through life challenges in personal situations or work environments, Carol has become adept at overcoming obstacles across the full spectrum of challenges in life. Within her chosen profession, Carol herself has experienced and overcome obstacles and helped others

confront and overcome their situations. Her experience also includes teaching both youth and adults about purpose, life skills, safety and drug education.

Carol has sat on several planning committees, some of which include: The Los Angeles Marathon and Bicycle Tour, an event that hosts over 30,000 participants; the Olympic Torch Run that ran through Los Angeles en route to Atlanta; and the 1994 Soccer World Cup Planning Committee that was held in Pasadena where she represented local city and government agencies. Carol believes all of her life experiences have prepared her to nurture others and encourage them to pursue their passions. Her philanthropic activities include globally partnering with other organizations and churches to address the AIDS epidemic, socio-economic development, entrepreneurship, community redevelopment and spiritual growth of individuals. She has spoken to groups in the United Kingdom, South Africa and throughout the United States, where she inspires and motivates others to take action. She conducts workshops, speaks at churches and schools, and provides individual coaching. Carol works with people who want to improve their lives and with organizations that encourage personal achievement and character development. She is a dynamic and powerful speaker that has been described as the “obstetrician to your life purpose...assisting with the delivery of a dream.” She captivates and infuses her audiences with high energy, sincerity, compassion and compelling enthusiasm.

### **Sonny**

#### **Bikers Against Child Abuse**

Sonny is the Los Angeles Chapter President for Bikers Against Child Abuse. B.A.C.A. International, Inc. is organized with a central contact person to receive calls from referring agencies and individuals. A recognized, authorized agency with which the child has had contact determines that the child is still frightened by his or her environment. The agency representative contacts B.A.C.A. or refers the individual to contact B.A.C.A. and the name and address of the child is given to our B.A.C.A./Child Liaison. The liaison verifies that the case has been reported and the authorities have been contacted, and the case is being processed within the system. The liaison contacts the family, and an initial ride is organized to meet the child at their home or in some other location where the child will feel comfortable. The B.A.C.A. chapter rides to meet the child and he/she is given a vest with a B.A.C.A. patch sewn on the back. The child is free to wear the vest or not, and we support their decision. The child is also given bumper stickers and other gifts that are generally donated by the public.

### **Jim Struve, LCSW**

#### **MenHealing**

Jim serves as Executive Director of MenHealing/Weekends of Recovery. He has been working with male survivors since 1976. He was a pioneering co-organizer (1988) for one of the first national conferences to focus on non-offending male survivors. He was chair for several subsequent conferences and a founding member of the organization now known as MaleSurvivor. He joined the Facilitator Team for the Weekends of Recovery program in 2002. He was instrumental in launching MenHealing in 2017 and has served as Executive Director since that time. Jim is a nationally recognized workshop presenter. He has numerous professional publications and is a dedicated social justice advocate for issues related to sexual violence, as well as sexual and gender equity. In his free time Jim is a dedicated husband and parent to a

wonderful dog, as well as an avid devotee of outdoor adventures including skiing, biking, and mountain treks.

### **Lorena Vázquez Santiago Psy.D., MRC, CRC, CA-III**

Dr. Lorena Vázquez Santiago is a Nuyorican, Latina, Clinical-Forensic Psychologist, and a Rehabilitation Counselor. Alumna from The Chicago Professional School of Psychology, Los Angeles Campus, and the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus.

She is currently working in her private practice Starfish Psychological Services in Puerto Rico. Her clinical background includes community mental health services, in-home therapy, telephone crisis intervention, in-home crisis interventions, psychiatric hospitalization, juvenile offender evaluations, sex offender evaluations, and trauma.

Her research interests are related to crisis, gender issues, human sexuality, trauma, and offender's rehabilitation. Dr. Vázquez received her Master in Rehabilitation Counseling from University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus. She is a licensed counselor in Puerto Rico and licensed clinical psychologist. Lorena holds different certifications including: Alternative Dispute Resolutions, Interventionist and Prevention of Domestic Violence, National Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Therapeutic Addictions Counselor. She received her Doctoral Degree in Clinical-Forensic Psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles, California. She is currently working towards a Certification in Sexual Abuse.

Dr. Vázquez's employment history includes: Teacher, Assertive Community Treatment Specialist, Clinical Liaison, Crisis Therapist, Counselor and Crisis Specialist, Graduate Program Coordinator, Graduate Program Professor, Clinical Director, Chief Executive Officer, and Clinical Forensic Psychologist. She has a broad array of population experiences including: youth at risk, severely mental ill, juvenile offenders, adult offenders, family preservation, family reunification, sex offenders, and crisis interventions, both in English and Spanish.

### **Nita Watson, M.A.**

#### **The Self-Care Lab Boxing & Fitness Club**

Nita L. Watson is a Marriage and Family Therapist Registered Intern, as well as a Certified Personal Trainer and a U.S.A certified boxing coach. She received her B.S. in Psychology and M.A. in Counseling Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy from Argosy University, Inland Empire, before eventually becoming a supervisor of the Therapeutic Behavioral Services department with Ettie Lee Homes, Inc. After her eight-year career as a therapist and supervisor there, Ms. Watson accepted an independent contractual position with Heritage Homes, Inc. while she prepared to open her private practice (Watson Family Counseling Services). In addition to starting her own private practice, she is now working with victims of trauma at the Veterans Affairs office. In January 2017, she opened The Self-Care Lab Boxing & Fitness Club (Pomona), a full-service boxing and fitness club, designed to target poor self-image, anxiety, depression and impulsive behavior. Ms. Watson not only assists individuals with their personal fitness goal, but she also trains professional and amateur boxers as well.

She was inspired to open The Self-Care Lab after her own struggle with anxiety led her to seek a form of self-care. Refusing to give up on herself as well as on her goals and aspirations, Ms. Watson started boxing to try and improve her mental health. She quickly saw the benefits it had

with her anxiety and wanted to help others discover the multitude of benefits that exercise has to offer. She purchased the space in November of 2016 but did not open until January of 2017 because she wanted to make sure it was the best it could be. Since opening The Self-Care Lab, Ms. Watson has trained over 500 individuals with mental health issues ranging from Depression and Anxiety, all the way to Schizophrenia. She is a pillar of her community and donates her own time and financial resources to improve the lives of everyone she interacts with. Ms. Watson and her team have hosted multiple workshops in and around the community of Pomona. She has presented at Chaffey College, Just Us 4 Youth, and the Pomona & Palisades School Districts, just to name a few. Her ultimate goal is to shine a spotlight on self-care through her innovative approach of combining fitness and mental health awareness. Her goal of expanding and opening multiple gyms will bring additional community support to families, supporting foster and juvenile delinquent youth.

### **Mercy Willard**

#### **Executive Director, USC Latino Alumni Association**

Mercy Willard joined the Trojan family after spending 16 years in the nonprofit health sector. She has a long and successful history of building relationships and community partnerships, as well as developing programming for underserved populations with an emphasis on the Latino community and those living with a disability.

Most recently, Mercy served as Director of Community Health Strategies for the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the American Diabetes Association (ADA). In this role, she developed programs and strategic partnerships with community organizations to promote diabetes prevention and treatment. Prior to that, she served in a similar capacity with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, where she also served as the West Region Liaison on Diversity and Inclusion and assisted with volunteer recruitment and board development.

She earned a Bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2001 and a Master's in nonprofit management from Regis University in 2005. She is also an alumna of the CORO Health Leadership Fellowship Program. She is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership at the USC Rossier School of Education which she completed in May.

Mercy is committed to making a difference in the community and using her experience as a first-generation low-income student to help others.

### **Jorge Wong, Ph.D.**

#### **President and CEO of Richmond Area Multi-Services, Inc. (RAMS)**

Dr. Wong is committed to advocating for and providing community based, culturally-competent, and consumer-guided comprehensive services serving Asian Pacific Islanders, Russian-speaking and culturally diverse communities in San Francisco. Previously Dr. Wong served as the Director of the Specialty Mental Health Division at Asian Health Services (AHS) in Oakland, and the Director of Clinical and Regulatory Affairs at Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) in San Jose for many years. He has also served on the American Psychological Association Practice Organization (APAPO) Committee for the Advancement of Professional Psychology (CAPP), State Leadership Committee (SLC), and as a board member of the California Psychology Internship Council (CAPIC). Dr. Wong was the 2016 President of the California Psychological Association, recognized as the 2016 Okura Community Leadership

Award by the Asian American Psychological Association, and the 2015 Community Heroes Award: Mover and Shaker, by the Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Board. He received his Doctorate from Palo Alto University (PAU) and completed his Internship at Cermak Health Services of Cook County DOC-Rush Presbyterian-Isaac Ray Center (APA). He teaches in the Diversity and Community Mental Health emphasis of the Ph.D. program, emphasizing leadership and advocacy, policy development and administration, procurement and program management. He has also taught the practicum courses in the Doctorate and Master's programs at PAU, and in his spare time, he is one of the alumni trustees on the PAU Board of Trustees, consults with the U.S. Dept. of Justice Civil Rights Division, and is involved locally with the Santa Clara County and San Francisco Psychological Associations.

### **Staff Biographies**

#### **Aquil Basheer, D.LITT**

##### **Executive Director and Founder: B.U.I.L.D, PCITI & The License to Operate Movement**

Mr. Basheer has been described as “One of the nation’s premier, practitioner-based Violence Intermediation Professionals, Elite Public Safety Experts and Hard-Core Gang Intervention Specialists” in society today. He is recognized as being at the top of a league of specialists in the area of discipline and acknowledged as one of the most accomplished authorities in this field of expertise. Mr. Basheer is also a highly regarded Adjunct Professor and subject matter expert at Alliant University International. He instructs & consults worldwide and has trained thousands in the area of expertise.

Mr. Basheer founded Maximum Force Enterprises and the Professional Community Intervention Training Institute, (PCITI); (the nation’s first “practitioner based’ professionally certifying 18-week Community Violence Intercession-Gang Intervention Institute) and the License to Operate (LTO) Movement.

His training sessions have garnered international attention and support, having traveled the world over to train specialty teams in Brazil, SWAT teams from Argentina, elite executive protection specialists from Africa, private Crisis Elimination teams from London, public safety experts from Beijing, Hong Kong & Shanghai, Gang Intercession specialists in El Salvador and Emergency Responders/Peacekeeping Intervention experts all over the United States. He has provided his expertise in Geneva, Switzerland to the World Health Organization to guide their international violence prevention template and to the United Nations in Geneva to assist in drafting the International “Safer City” blueprint. Aquil is the brainchild of celebrated 501c3 non-profit “The BUILD Program” and the groundbreaking “Professional Peacekeepers Collaborative Alliance” (PPCA); a network of professionally trained and certified Violence Intercession Experts and Community Restoration Specialists. A nationally read syndicated columnist whose column “Street Survival 101” was one of the most widely read columns in the nation at its height. He is a published author who has released the critically acclaimed book *Peace in the Hood: Working with Gang Members to End the Violence*, which sets the standard for hard core community-based violence intervention, conflict resolution and community empowerment and is a required textbook for courses at USC, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Alliant University International, UCLA and the Kinship Program in Orange County. Aquil has appeared

in countless documentaries and short films including “Bloods and Crips”, Gangland, Made in America, “License To Operate,” a documentary in which he has a starring role and “Black Jacket,” a documentary based of the PCITI methodology which provides an in depth look inside the PCITI International Training Institute he developed. He has received numerous awards and honors, including the prestigious California Peace Prize and a PhD (Doctorate of Humanities) honoris causa from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology for his specialized expertise in this discipline.

**Debra Warner, Psy.D.**  
**Conference Director/ Executive Director**  
**Full Professor, Forensic Psychology**

Dr. Warner received her Master of Arts and Master of Education in counseling psychology from Columbia University, Teachers College, in New York City. She completed her doctorate in Forensic Psychology at Alliant International University in Fresno, CA. She has served as an adjunct professor for several universities and as Lead Faculty for Chapman University's Marriage and Family Therapy program. She is currently a Full Professor for the Los Angeles campus of The Chicago School of Professional Psychology's Psy.D. program in Clinical Forensic Psychology. She has also served as Special Assistant to the Dean of Academic Affairs: Diversity and Community Engagement and Lead Faculty for the Forensic Psychology department at Los Angeles and Irvine. Some of her other professional assignments have included the Department of Homeland Security, Los Angeles Police Department, C.U.R.E.-A Better Los Angeles, the Department of Defense, the Department of Corrections, and Regional Center. For these assignments, she designed the program elements related to mental health and evaluation. Moreover, she served as clinical supervisor relating to human trafficking, trauma, PTSD and multicultural therapeutic techniques.

In 2009, she received several awards and recognitions for community engagement from the Los Angeles City Attorney, Department of Defense, Los Angeles Police Department, and The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. In 2013, she was given a distinguished teaching award for Outstanding Public Service Teaching. She currently is a peer reviewer on several academic journals and is part of the Medical Advisory Board for Quality Health. In 2015, she became a regular Tuesday night co-host of the weekly syndicated radio show Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) on Blog Talk Radio with Bill Murray. She is on the board of directors for The National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan (NPEIV) relating to public awareness and publicity. She is on the advisory board for A Better LA. She is an invited consultant involving academic program review and evaluation, both nationally and internationally. She is also an invited speaker pertaining to community gang intervention. She now focuses her clinical practice on male survivor issues of abuse, violence and trauma. She has written many encyclopedia entries related to crime and justice for Sage publications (Encyclopedia of Transnational Crime and Justice and Encyclopedia of Criminal Justice Ethics). Currently, her research focuses on diversity issues connected to forensic community mental health and male survivor trauma. Her book about male survivor relationships with their

significant others, “His History, Her Story” released in October 2017 and in 2019 she co-authored “Barbara and My Boys” with Michael Oropollo. In her spare time, she creates trainings for law enforcement and attorneys related to mental health and the court system. It should be noted that in all of her professional endeavors, she involves students for professional development.

**Cristina Cortez, M.A.**

**Assistant Conference Director of Outreach and Media Relations**

**The Chicago School of Professional Psychology**

Cristina Cortez will be starting her fourth year of the Clinical Forensic Psychology Doctoral program at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Los Angeles Campus. Cristina holds a Bachelors in Social Work and a Masters in Counseling Psychology with a specialization in MFT and LPCC. She also holds an Associates Marriage and Family Therapist license.

Cristina is currently a clinical practicum student at PRI doing psychological and neurological assessments. She will be going to Gateways Hospital in the fall for her internship. Cristina hopes to take what she has learned and work in different countries, as well as work in the mental hospital setting.

**Allie Roddy**

**Assistant Conference Director of Outreach and Media Relations**

**The Chicago School of Professional Psychology**

Allie is completing her final year in the clinical forensic doctoral program at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles. In 2018, she graduated from Youngstown State University in Ohio with Bachelor’s degrees in both psychology and criminal justice. Allie has over 6 years of experience working in the legal field as well as with law enforcement. Most recently, she worked with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department in their VIDA program, where she provided clinical intervention for low-risk at-risk adolescents and their families. In addition to working with adolescents and families, Allie has worked as an individual and couple’s therapist for adults, as well as facilitating psychoeducation and processing therapy groups. Her experience includes treating depression, anxiety, trauma, bipolar, co-occurring disorders, OCD, substance use, grief, and personality disorders. Allie also serves as the lead student researcher for the Los Angeles County Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team. Allie is beginning her internship as a psychological assistant at Southern California Neuropsychology Group, where she will be administering neuropsychological assessments and furthering her professional development in the field of psychology and neuropsychology.

**Jessica Torres**

**Assistant Director of Conference Programming**

**The Chicago School of Professional Psychology**

Jessica Torres is finishing her third year in the Clinical Forensic Psychology Doctoral Program at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles. Jessica earned her Bachelor’s degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminology and Criminal Justice and a minor in Child and Adolescent Development from California State University, Northridge. She is currently doing her second practicum at California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation/Division of Juvenile Justice at Ventura Youth Correctional Facility working closely with both male and female

violent youth offenders, providing psychological treatment and assessments in the mental health residential units. In August, Jessica will be placed at Orange County Health Care Agency working in juvenile hall providing substance abuse treatment and conducting psychological assessments with the juvenile correctional population.

**Devon Medina, MSW**

**Assistant Conference Director of Outreach and Media Relations**

Devon Medina has recently received her Master's of Social Work degree at the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work where she concentrated in Children, Youth, and Families and School Social Work. Devon graduated from Pacific University in Oregon with dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Sociology and Criminal Justice, Law, and Society. At Pacific, Devon wrote a thesis examining the inaccurate portrayal of intimate partner violence in film and the effects it has on survivors of sexual assault. Devon has previously volunteered at the Sexual Assault Resource Center in Beaverton, Oregon, as a crisis advocate for survivors of sexual assault and has been interning as school social work mental health counselor throughout her time at USC to obtain her PPSC and CWA credentials. Devon is currently pursuing continuing education to work as a bilingual clinician in English and American Sign Language.

Devon wants to challenge and change inconsistent and harmful representations of individuals on various media platforms by being an empathic, compassionate, and understanding social worker while observing human behavior through a socio-theoretical lens.

## SCRIPT 2020 Hope Award Recipients

This year we are delighted to honor individuals in the community who have inspired others. Join us in celebrating the achievements and influences of people who collaborate and improve relationships within the community.

### Lifetime Achievement

#### **Martice D. Hawkins**

Martice is a native of Louisiana and attended LSU where she completed a dual major, earning a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Bachelor of Arts in History. Martice attended graduate school at Louisiana Tech University earning a Master of Arts in History. Prior to the FBI, Martice worked as a high school educator in the DC area where she taught history and public speaking and worked in the non-profit sector as a program manager.

Martice has been with the FBI for 5 years and is currently assigned to the FBI Los Angeles Office of Public and Congressional Affairs as a Community Outreach Specialist; serving as the primary liaison for African American, Hispanic, and LGBTQ+ communities. In her role, she collaborates with faith-based and community organizations to bring awareness to issues impacting their respective communities while connecting communities and organizations to the FBI's public resources and community engagement programs. Martice also works with a variety of youth engagement non-profit organizations, introducing youths to the FBI and the various career paths and sharing resources on how to stay safe.

### Community Intervention

Awarded to an individual or team that has assisted communities/individuals in taking the next steps in life by demonstrating commitment to addressing community needs through intervention and advocating for peaceful solutions to violence. The commitment is through the implementation of exceptional program(s) that engage the community to improve and foster restorative initiatives.

#### **TKeyah (Kia) Dupclay**

Kia started the outreach program during Covid which ultimately led to all Restoration Diversion Services (RDS) programs, case management, human trafficking training, influencer/life skills class: etiquette, acting, mindfulness, and poetry so far. They are currently working on expanding to politics, hiking, planting, and photography. They also have a Survivor to Success program where they hire survivors directly. The only requirement is they have to be actively working their case plan. The RDS drop in center went from being open 3 days a week to 5 days a week with a hotline and on-call staff on nights and weekends. Kia's goal is to soon get houses or abandoned buildings to turn them into housing. She also hopes to launch a Survivor Advisory Board by the end of the year. And when I graduate I hope to start incorporating the motorcycle school aspect. Kia is making a difference in the community through the innovative approaches she is introducing at RDS and I hope her hard work can be recognized.

## **Education and Training**

Awarded to individuals who have demonstrated how the training has positively affected the efficiency and effectiveness through academics. Approaches to teaching and the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn. Development of curricula, resources or services that reflect a command of the field. Evaluation practices that bring about improvements in teaching and learning. Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or the student experience.

### **Jim Struve, LCSW**

#### **MenHealing**

Jim serves as Executive Director of MenHealing/Weekends of Recovery. He has been working with male survivors since 1976. He was a pioneering co-organizer (1988) for one of the first national conferences to focus on non-offending male survivors. He was chair for several subsequent conferences and a founding member of the organization now known as MaleSurvivor. He joined the Facilitator Team for the Weekends of Recovery program in 2002. He was instrumental in launching MenHealing in 2017 and has served as Executive Director since that time. Jim is a nationally recognized workshop presenter. He has numerous professional publications and is a dedicated social justice advocate for issues related to sexual violence, as well as sexual and gender equity. In his free time Jim is a dedicated husband and parent to a wonderful dog, as well as an avid devotee of outdoor adventures including skiing, biking, and mountain treks.

## **Innovation Award**

Awarded to an individual that has demonstrated that innovation has contributed to a more efficient way of doing things. The creativity should be creative and original. The innovation adds to the community by reducing violence, reducing costs and uses data that will validate the effectiveness of the innovation.

### **Jennifer Barbosa**

Jennifer Barbosa was a victim of domestic violence as a child and again as a young adult. Jennifer chose action over victimization and put herself through college to become a counselor and advocate for young people traumatized by violence. She began as a young volunteer at WomenShelter of Long Beach and worked her way to her current position, Children/Youth Coordinator. Teen dating violence is rampant in schools. Jennifer has been essential in developing awareness and prevention programs and an annual conference for youth to help them recognize harmful behavior and build respectful and healthy relationships. Using a trauma-informed approach, Jennifer and her team have designed programs that inform young people about cyber bullying, consent, stalking, and more. They visit middle and high schools and college campuses to make these presentations and offer compassionate empowerment to our youth. Jennifer is a powerful role model to young women and young men.

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