

## Speaker Biographies

### ATSH PC: Learning Collaborative

#### Learning Session #3, June 29, 2022

##### **Katie Bell** | Center for Care Innovations



Grace "Katie" Bell MSN RN-BC CARN PHN has been a MAT Nurse Consultant/ Coach for Center for Care Innovations since 2016 beginning with Treatment Addiction in Primary Care (TAPC) 1.0 and 2.0 programs and currently with Addiction Treatment Starts Here (ATSH) Primary Care. Katie is also a nurse consultant with Telewell Indian Health MAT Project, a part of DHCS Tribal MAT 2.0, offering Technical Assistance, mentoring, and training for California Tribal and Urban Indian Health clinics as they develop Medications for Addictions Treatment (MAT) programs. Ms. Bell has co-facilitated in the UCLA Hub & Spoke Learning Collaborative and is a monthly participant for UCLA ISAP's Tribal Project Echo. Board-certified as Addictions RN, Katie has been working with the medication buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone) since a 2001 Phase 3 NIDA clinical trial while a staff nurse at the Betty Ford Center. Having developed programs for Opioid Use Disorder and other substance use disorders in multiple settings including Dept. of Veteran Affairs, an Inpatient Treatment Center, a methadone clinic and Tribal Primary Care, Katie brings understanding of best practices to patient care and advocacy in a variety of health care setting and systems.

##### **Danny Contreras** | Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency



Danny Contreras works for the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency as the Health Services Manager that oversees the Medication Assisted Treatment program (MAT) at all county clinics. Danny was the recipient of the 2017 County of Santa Cruz Gold award for being the key contributor to the development of protocols, procedures, forms, workflows, and implementing the Medication Assisted Treatment program at all county clinics which has had a county and statewide impact. He has over 30 years of lived experience coupled with a B.S in psychology, AA in social and behavioral science, multiple certificates in drug and alcohol counseling and human services with high honors. He holds current SUDCC III, Certified Drug and Alcohol counselor through CADTP. Danny is consulted regularly by agencies, schools, and people in the community on various issues in the community involving at-risk youth, incarceration, Re-Entry, gangs, addiction, implementing MAT, outreach, prevention, intervention, homelessness, etc. Danny teaches at the local police academy to future officers on stigma, drug addiction, stereotypes, providing trauma informed care, etc. There is a saying that says "Hurt people, hurt people but Healed people HEAL people!" Danny today, is in a place where his past experience and education puts him in a

unique position to help people on their journey to healing. To advocate and be a voice for those who cannot be heard to get the services they need.

### **Ginny Eck** | Wesley Health Centers

Ginny Eck is the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Project Director for JWCH-Wesley Health Centers, a federally qualified health center with 17 sites located in Los Angeles County. She started the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program at Wesley Health in 2016 which has quickly developed into one of the largest in Los Angeles. She has also worked at Community Health Project Los Angeles, a non-profit syringe exchange program. Ginny has trained over 20 different agencies in MAT and harm reduction and continues to work directly with providers and community-based organizations with the overarching goal of improving health outcomes for people who use drugs. She continues to work directly with patients experiencing homelessness, previously incarcerated individuals and people who use drugs. In her spare time, she enjoys *trying* to garden and was a touring musician before working in harm reduction.

### **Steven Hochman** | JWCH Insitute



Steven Hochman, MD, MPH has worked with JWCH Institute at the Center for Community Health located on Los Angeles's Skid Row since 2019. He practices a broad scope of primary care with a focus on the diagnosis and management of patients experiencing substance use disorder. He has been a DATA 2000 waived buprenorphine prescriber since 2020 and is the Lead Provider for the JWCH MAT Program. While at JWCH, Dr. Hochman started a long-acting injectable buprenorphine program. After finishing medical school at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, he completed a residence in Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of North Carolina and currently holds board certification and practices adult internal medicine as well as general pediatrics. Outside of the office, Dr. Hochman enjoys running and does weekly runs with the Skid Row Running Club, which is composed of many members in various stages of recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.

**Brian Hurley** | LA County Department of Health Services



Brian Hurley, MD, MBA, DFASAM, is an addiction psychiatrist and Director of Addiction Medicine at the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. He is an Assistant Professor of Addiction Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. He is the President-Elect of the American Society of Addiction Medicine and co-chairs the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services' Substance Use Disorders Workgroup and the SafeMedLA Medications for Addiction Treatment Action Team. Brian provides technical assistance in the delivery of Medications for Addiction Treatment as well as smoking cessation services to community health centers, clinical programs, and agencies across the United States. Additionally, he is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers and provides training in Motivational Interviewing across the United States.

**Cyndee Lake** | Blank Page



Cyndee Lake is the co-founder & Chief Purpose Officer of Blank Page. She operates with 30+ years of leadership and business success for fast-paced companies in high-tech, healthcare, oil & gas, insurance, and financial services. Strategic agility, transformational leadership, people centered design, service innovation, and building high performing teams are where she has a proven track record. She is well known for workshops designed to shift mindsets, behaviors, and habits in key topics such as communication, decision making, strategy, and leadership effectiveness.

### **Christina Lasich** | Mendocino Community Health Clinic



After residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Dr. Christina Lasich, a graduate of the University California at Davis School of Medicine, returned to her hometown of Grass Valley, California. She held a private practice in both pain and addiction medicine for 15 years. In addition to private practice, she also worked as the Medical Director for Community Recovery Resources (now Granite Wellness) from 2013 to 2018. During that time, she closed her private practice and joined a community health center that serves Nevada, Placer and Sierra Counties, Western Sierra Medical Clinic. In 2018, she became the Chief Medical Officer of Western Sierra. And served at that capacity for nearly four years before joining a larger FQHC, Mendocino Community Health. In addition to clinical work, Dr. Lasich has years of experience as a professional writer and regionally recognized speaker. In her leisure time, she enjoys the company of dogs, the sports of fly fishing and upland game hunting, and long drives in the countryside.

### **Dominique McDowell** | UC San Francisco



Mr. McDowell joined the leadership team at Marin City Health and Wellness Center (MCHWC) to create an innovative Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program to serve those struggling with opioid or alcohol addictions, as well as Contingency Management Program (CM) for patients struggling with Methamphetamine use. His program has received statewide and national acclaim and allowed MCHWC to bring important substance use and homelessness services to southern Marin. He is trained as a Relapse Prevention Specialist (RLPS), Gorski-CENAPS, Housing Active Users, is certified by the California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP), CASII-Clinical Supervisor, Substance Abuse Certified Counselor (SUDCCII) and teaches anger management and conflict resolution. Mr. McDowell brings tremendous knowledge, expertise, and empathy to this role, as a service provider and recovering individual.

Previously, Mr. McDowell was Program Manager of the Marin County Safety Net at Ritter Center, Substance Abuse Counselor at Marin Outpatient Recovery Services, and a Volunteer HIV Counselor with the SF Department of Public Health. Throughout his career, he has worked with high-risk clients in chronic disease management, including HIV and Hepatitis C, and has assisted individuals and families with disparities, such as post-incarceration referrals to treatment. He is committed to a harm reduction model around addiction, I.V. drug use, safe sex, and health awareness, and is actively the owner of the JUSTUS sober living home in Marin County ([justussle.com](http://justussle.com)). Mr. McDowell studied at City College of San Francisco and attended classes at SF State with knowledge in Addiction Studies. Mr. McDowell is now the Program Manager of UCSF's S.O.R.T. team.

## **Elizabeth Morrison** | EM Consulting



Elizabeth Morrison is the CEO and a principal consultant of EM Consulting. The foundation of all of Elizabeth's work focuses on centralizing the human connection in healthcare, through development of integrated care systems, implementing trauma informed care practices, and elevating the vital importance of skillful, empathic communication both in-person and virtually. Elizabeth has worked in the tech industry as a subject matter expert, effectively transitioning evidenced-based communication principles into user experience and design. She has over 15 years of experience in developing effective and sustainable Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH) services in primary care organizations and has served on integrated care advisory boards for the California Primary Care Association and the UCSF School of Medicine. She is an expert Motivational Interviewing (MI) trainer, providing research-based training and train the trainer courses in MI and other empathy-based communications for healthcare professionals for over 20 years. Elizabeth is the co-creator of the Institute for Healthcare Communication's most popular workshop: "The Empathy Effect: Countering Bias to Improve Health Outcomes", which was rolled out in the United States and Canada. She has dedicated her career to working for and with non-profit safety net health organizations, including community clinics, Medicaid Health Plans, Philanthropic Health Foundations, and other Social Justice oriented non-profits. Elizabeth has a PhD in Social Psychology, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has a Masters in Addiction Counseling. As a practicing clinician for over 25 years, she has been engaged in providing therapy via video, phone, and text for the last 18 months, maintaining an on-the-ground perspective of what works in practice.

## **Eboni Winford** | Cherokee Health Systems



Eboni Winford, Ph.D., MPH, is the Director of Research and Health Equity and a licensed psychologist at Cherokee Health Systems in Knoxville, TN. In these roles, she provides direct clinical care to patients, contributes to workforce development in community health centers, and oversees research initiatives including those funded by the HRSA, the TN Department of Health, and the NIH. She also serves as the Clinical Director for CHS's National Consultation and Training Program, which provides individualized on-site training to other primary care organizations as they seek to integrate their practices. She is on the board of directors for the Collaborative Family Healthcare Association, holds an appointed position on the American Psychological Association's Ad Hoc Health Equity Committee, is secretary of the American Public Health Association's Community Health Planning and Policy Development section, and serves as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair of the National Association of Community Health Center's Committee on Service Integration for Behavioral Health and HIV.

Dr. Winford holds adjunct faculty positions in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Meharry Medical College and in the Department of Psychology at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. She is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Fellow; a Health Equity Scholar in Cambridge Health Alliance's Center for Health Equity Education and Advocacy; and a Participant Leader in the American Psychological Association's Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology. Dr. Winford earned her doctorate in Clinical Health Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a proud life member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.