

2024 PA EMERGING DRUG TRENDS SYMPOSIUM

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Taffy Anderson, MD is a Board-Certified Obstetrician Gynecologist. She graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed her residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of Michigan Medical Center. Dr. Anderson's Academic appointments have included Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine. She was the Vice President and Chief Quality Officer at Milton S. Hershey Medical Center from the July 2020 – July 2022. In July 2022, she entered the Addiction Medicine Fellowship program at Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. In addition to her addiction medicine fellowship she became certified as a Clinical Trauma Specialist Individual from the Arizona Trauma Institute. Currently she is an Assistant Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Associate Medical Director of the Maternal Substance Use Disorder Program, Associate Medical Director of Reproductive and Behavioral Health Program and an Addiction Medicine Specialist at Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Along with her colleagues, Dr. Anderson, assisted in the implementation of the Maternal Substance Use Disorder Program at Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, which opened in July 2023. She dedicates her time treating women and pregnant persons who have substance use disorders with a focus on Trauma-Informed Approach to Care for this population. She has a special interest in treating women who have substance use disorders and have experienced childhood or adult trauma.

Mark Anger, Sr. is a dedicated Certified Recovery Specialist Supervisor at Passages to Recovery, with over a decade of service in various capacities from Monitor Tech to his current leadership role. Mark's career is distinguished by a commitment to empathy and compassion, qualities honed through daily interactions that deepen his understanding of the recovery process. His personal journey mirrors the resilience he fosters in others, marked by overcoming challenges such as incarceration and substance use, and celebrating over 14 years of sobriety since June 23, 2010. His achievements include returning to school as an adult to earn his high school diploma, followed by a driver's license and certification as a Certified Recovery Support Specialist. Driven by a belief that recovery is for those who want it, not just those who need it, Mark is passionate about supporting individuals ready to change their lives. His approach is grounded in authenticity and inspired by his faith, making him a profound resource and advocate for recovery.

Valerie Arkoosh, MD, MPH was appointed Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services in June 2023. Prior to this role, Secretary Arkoosh served on the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners from January 2015. As Commission Chair, Secretary Arkoosh was committed to strengthening services for children, veterans, and seniors. She led the efforts to eliminate street homelessness of veterans and streamline delivery of human services.. Drawing on her background as a physician, she oversaw a multi-pronged, integrated response to the opioid overdose epidemic, including issuing a standing order in 2015 to enable participating pharmacies in Montgomery County to dispense the overdose antidote naloxone at the request of any member of the public. As a physician and public health professional, Secretary Arkoosh was at the center of Montgomery County's efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, leading a data- and science-driven approach to the unprecedented challenge. Arkoosh's leadership was praised during the county's response, especially her transparency and public communication throughout the pandemic. Secretary Arkoosh is also a staunch advocate for maternal health and reproductive rights, and previously served on the Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee. Prior to stepping into public service, Secretary Arkoosh was Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology and Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. Arkoosh is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine and received a Master of

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Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She performed her residency at Jefferson Medical College in Anesthesiology with a special focus in Obstetrics. She has an undergraduate degree in economics from Northwestern University.

Bhavna Bali, MD, FASAM, FACP completed her Internal Medicine residency training at Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital in Athens, Georgia and her Addiction Medicine Fellowship training at Penn State in Hershey, Pennsylvania. She is board certified in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. She is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Penn State and the Associate Program Director of the Interdisciplinary Addiction Medicine Fellowship at Penn State Health. Her clinical time is spent working at a Methadone Opioid Treatment Program, Office Based Addiction Treatment Clinic, and inpatient Addiction Consult Service. Her educational efforts include training Fellows, Residents, and Medical Students in the field of Addiction Medicine. She also helps run various Project Echo's for the surrounding rural counties in Pennsylvania on training healthcare practitioners and local community workers on how to recognize and address issues around substance use disorders. Her academic interests are focused on patient, family, and provider education on reducing stigmas associated with substance use and helping transition appropriate patients with complex persistent opioid dependence on long term opioid therapy to buprenorphine formulations. She enjoys working on quality improvement projects to improve health care system policies and procedures on recognizing, diagnosing, and managing substance use disorders, withdrawals, and linkage to care.

Alice Bell, L.C.S.W. is the Overdose Prevention Project Director for Prevention Point Pittsburgh. She has distributed naloxone at PPP's syringe service sites, since 2005 and coordinates PPP's naloxone distribution, drug checking and data collection. In 2023, PPP distributed close to 50,000 doses of naloxone, locally and through the statewide mailing project and documented 1450 overdose reversals with naloxone obtained through PPP. Alice is also an educator and advocate for Harm Reduction Strategies to Reduce Overdose and for rational drug policy reform. She works to promote harm reduction practices at the local, state and national level and is co-facilitator for the Opiate Safety with Naloxone Network (OSNN).

Debra Bogen, MD is the Secretary of the PA Department of Health. Prior to joining the Commonwealth, Dr. Bogen was the Director of the Allegheny County Health Department, where she and her staff stayed on top of the pandemic and provided consistent, measured and common-sense information to the public while working closely with many stakeholders in the county. Prior to that appointment, Dr. Bogen was a member of the Pittsburgh region medical and research community for more than two decades. She held a primary academic appointment as Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh, and secondary appointments in psychiatry and clinical and translational science. Dr. Bogen also served as the Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Pediatrics at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. She dedicated her career as a pediatrician to caring for children and families impacted by social inequities. Her clinical research focused on the impact of mental health and substance use on families. Dr. Bogen earned her medical degree from the University of Colorado School of Medicine and completed both her pediatric residency and general academic pediatrics fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She was one of the founders of the Mid-Atlantic Mothers' Milk Bank and served as the organization's Volunteer Medical Director until assuming her role at the state.

Stephanie Boltich is a dedicated Certified Recovery Specialist at Passages to Recovery, with a profound commitment to harm reduction and recovery capital. Beginning her career as a Recovery Technician, she quickly rose to a supervisory role and has recently been appointed as the Lead CRS. Stephanie's journey is both professional and personal, having engaged with recovery from addiction firsthand and witnessing its impact on close family and friends. Stephanie's philosophy is centered around meeting clients where they are, recognizing that the path to cessation of use is not uniform. Her approach emphasizes empathy and respect, fostering an environment that empowers individuals on their recovery journey. She is particularly attuned to the challenges of those she serves, drawing on her own experiences to enhance her ability to support others effectively.

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Her move to Passages to Recovery in February 2024 marked a significant step, aligning her professional environment with her values and vision for recovery support. Stephanie continues to be an instrumental figure in promoting innovative and compassionate recovery practices.

Ashley Bolton, MPH is the Director of the Office of Drug Surveillance and Misuse Prevention (ODSMP) at the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the office that is responsible for the Department's response to the overdose epidemic in Pennsylvania and includes the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, overdose surveillance efforts, and several overdose prevention programs and harm reduction initiatives. Ashley joined ODSMP in May 2019 and previously served as the Executive Director of the American Heart Association's Capital Region. Ashley has a bachelor's degree in Integrated Physiology and Health Sciences from Alma College and a Masters in Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh.

Tom Coderre is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). With decades of public, private, and non-profit service, Mr. Coderre is the first person in recovery to lead SAMSHA. Mr. Coderre's career has been significantly influenced by his personal journey and a philosophy that acknowledges the essential role peer recovery support services play in helping people with mental and substance use disorders rebuild their lives. In his role as SAMSHA's Region One Administrator, Mr. Coderre led the prioritization of prevention, treatment and recovery services under the strain of COVID-19. He reconvened the Federal Interagency Workgroup on Opioids and as overdoses spiked throughout 2020, he brought the region together to identify programmatic and policy solutions to respond. Tom is the former Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and Senior Advisor to the SAMSHA Administrator. Mr. Coderre led the team that produced "Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health." As Senior Advisor to Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, Mr. Coderre co-chaired a task force that coordinated a multi-layered strategy to address the opioid crisis. Mr. Coderre worked on mental health policy and helped draft an Executive Order to improve access to treatment by enforcing parity laws. He also worked with the State Police to establish the Hope Initiative, the first statewide program that engages law enforcement personnel in a proactive public health approach to combat the overdose epidemic. Mr. Coderre is the former National Field Director of Faces & Voices of Recovery and appeared in the documentary film *The Anonymous People*. He served as a member of the Rhode Island Senate from 1995 to 2003 and as Chief of Staff to the Senate President from 2009 to 2014. He has been recognized on numerous occasions for his dedication and advocacy efforts. Mr. Coderre is a graduate of both the Community College of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College.

Ryan Coffman, MPH, CHES, CTTS-M is the Tobacco Policy and Control Program Manager for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. In this role, he oversees several tobacco control and policy initiatives within the Division of Chronic Disease Prevention. These initiatives include the prevention of youth initiation, promoting tobacco-free environments, mass media campaigns, tobacco control policy, and tobacco treatment services. He is committed to serving vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted by the effects of tobacco use. Previously, Ryan provided inpatient, outpatient, and community tobacco use disorder treatment in hospital, behavioral health, correctional, and substance use treatment settings. He acquired his Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree at Tulane University and has certifications in health education, tobacco use disorder treatment and global tobacco control. Ryan first became committed to tobacco control in 2003 while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya and continues to provide tobacco treatment services at Health Center 2 in South Philadelphia.

Candice Crosgrove, a graduate of Penn Hills Senior High School, holds an AS in Criminal Justice, a BS in Human Service Management, and a master's degree in Counseling Psychology. Over her nearly 20-year career, she has worked across various facets of mental health and substance abuse services, advancing from case management roles to senior leadership. In her current position as Chief Programming Officer at Passages to Recovery, Candice

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directs the development of progressive substance use disorder treatments with a focus on leadership, social and racial justice, and criminal justice reform.

Latika D. Davis-Jones, Ph.D., MPH, MSW currently serves as the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), appointed to the position by Governor Josh Shapiro in January 2023. With over 30 years dedicated to addressing the physical and behavioral health needs of vulnerable populations, she brings extensive experience to her role. Prior to joining DDAP, Dr. Davis-Jones held the position of Senior Director of Behavioral Health at Highmark Wholecare, where she provided leadership and administrative oversight for behavioral health programs, including expanding into new markets and implementing health management initiatives. Dr. Davis-Jones's academic contributions include teaching foundational courses on social work practice, diversity, risk, oppression, resilience, and empowerment. She played a pivotal role in contributing to the content and analysis of measures for the book "Measuring Race and Ethnicity: Inside and Out" by the late Dr. Larry Davis and Dr. Rafael Engel. This work focused on psychological measures related to racial identity, acculturation, and intra and intergroup relations, enhancing researchers' ability to compare concepts across groups and evaluate disparities. Additionally, she served as co-principal investigator on the Strengthening Pittsburgh's African American Nonprofits (SPAAN) Project at the University of Pittsburgh-School of Social Work. Dr. Davis-Jones's commitment to community service is evidenced by her receipt of numerous community awards and her active participation on local boards, reflecting her dedication to making a positive impact beyond her professional responsibilities. She has also been a vocal advocate in addressing the opioid epidemic, delivering public testimonies before the Pennsylvania House and Senate Policy Committees, and presenting at national and local conferences. Her collaborative efforts have contributed to published reports and journal articles focused on tackling the opioid epidemic in Allegheny County.

Don Dissinger began his healthcare career more than 30 years ago when he completed the Denver Fire Department fire academy which included an Emergency Medical Technician – Basic course. He then completed paramedic training prior to graduating from the Reading Hospital School of Nursing with an RN diploma. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor's in nursing, Widener University with a master's in nursing, Wilkes University with a post-master's nursing certificate and is a student in the Doctorate in Nursing Practice at Pennsylvania State University. He has worked in pre-hospital care, critical care, acute care, geriatric care, primary care, psychiatry and addiction medicine. His current role is on an inpatient addiction medicine consult team at a quaternary care academic medical center in South Central Pennsylvania. His current role is primarily clinical and educational. His passion is treating and advocating for persons with substance use disorder as well as educating and supporting the healthcare community of nurses, physicians, physician assistants and students of all disciplines. His goal is to increase access to healthcare for the vulnerable population of substance users while improving and elevating the practice of addiction treatment in all settings. He is currently working to leverage the power of social media to improve understanding and treatment of substance use disorders and is a presenter and public speaker at local, regional, national and international events and conferences.

Margaret Eckles-Ray, BA, CADC, CRS currently serves as the Special Assistant to the Secretary at the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. In this capacity, she provides valuable support to the Secretary, working closely with stakeholders across the state to enhance the delivery of services and improve community well-being in the areas of substance use disorder and behavioral health issues. Prior to joining the Department, Margaret was the Program Director for the York Assessment Center of the White Deer Run Treatment Network, where she oversaw programs focused on substance use disorder treatment and support services. She brings over 12 years of experience working in the behavioral health and substance use treatment fields, dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable populations. Margaret holds a Bachelor of Arts

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from York College of Pennsylvania and is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration with a focus in Organizational Management. In addition to her professional accomplishments, she is the founder of Rising Queens, LLC, a motivational speaking business that empowers and inspires individuals, particularly women, to achieve their personal and professional goals.

Tilda Farhat, Ph.D., MPH is Assistant Director, Office of Translational Research, ONDCP. Dr. Farhat ensures that the latest evidence and data are driving policymaking across the federal government. Prior to joining ONDCP, Dr. Farhat directed the Office of Science Policy, Planning, Evaluation, and Reporting at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), National Institutes of Health (NIH). She provided leadership on key projects, activities, and processes to further the NIH and NIMHD mission, including the development of data systems to curate, integrate, and manage data, the implementation of analytical projects to facilitate research and operational priority-setting, as well as the planning, tracking, and reporting of NIH-wide minority health and health disparities activities to promote transparency and accountability. She launched the Economic Burden of Health Disparities project, oversaw the development, expansion, and dissemination of HDPulse, provided expertise for the development of new minority health and health disparities categories, and guided the establishment of the PhenX Social Determinants of Health collection. Dr. Farhat received her Ph.D. in Health Behavior from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) and her MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the American University of Beirut. She completed a Fellowship in Population Studies at UNC's Carolina Population Center and received Certificates in International Development from UNC and Population Policy Communication from the Population Reference Bureau.

Katrina (Kate) Favata serves as Community Engagement Manager at Crossroads Treatment Centers, overseeing outreach across Central, Northeast, and Southeast Pennsylvania. She draws on over 10 years of experience in behavioral health and substance use treatment, as well as her own long-term recovery journey. Favata previously worked as a Senior Community Relations Liaison at CleanState Centers and as a Behavioral Health Specialist at First Hospital Wyoming Valley. At Crossroads, Favata develops and implements strategies to increase treatment access, reduce stigma, and promote harm reduction. She builds partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, including healthcare providers, social services, law enforcement, government agencies, and nonprofits. Favata organizes educational events and delivers presentations to share evidence-based practices and person-centered approaches. As a person with lived experience, Favata speaks candidly about addiction and recovery to break down barriers. She addresses common misconceptions, such as the idea that medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is simply replacing one drug with another. Favata explains the science behind MAT and shares success stories to illustrate how it enables people to restore their health and quality of life.

David Fialko is an Internationally Certified Prevention Specialist and a Nationally Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist. David has over 20 years of experience working in the field of addiction sciences. David represents The Council of Southeast PA, Inc. where he provides counseling & intervention programs for students, tobacco cessation programs for adults, and prevention education for communities and public health providers. David's extensive experience working in the field of public health and addiction sciences allows him to provide up-to-date and effective lectures throughout the state and abroad.

Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, MSW is the Director of Planning and Resource Development at the Council on Chemical Abuse, Berks County Single County Authority. Following her graduation from Pennsylvania State University, Marcia served as Child Protective Services supervisor. She obtained her Master of Social Work at Temple University and for 30 plus years, she has assumed a variety of roles at the Council on Chemical Abuse, first as the Prevention Program Manager and currently as the Director of Planning and Resource Development. Throughout her career, Marcia has assumed a leadership role in the implementation of a variety of initiatives including Student Assistance programming, tobacco prevention and cessation services, gambling prevention

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projects, and most recently opioid prevention initiatives. Marcia follows the public health model of community empowerment to ensure that services are responsive to local needs. She earned her MSW in Social Work from Temple University.

Raquel Huggins, MA is the Public Health Project Manager at Latino Connection, where she leads the organization's tobacco prevention and control initiatives. Focused on reducing health disparities within Latino communities, she develops impactful programs that address tobacco use through culturally relevant campaigns and community outreach. Raquel is passionate about sustainability, health equity, and engaging young audiences in prevention efforts, including projects like the Advocates for Vape-Free Communities. Skilled in event production and team leadership, she brings a strategic approach to her work.

Patti Juliana, PhD, LCSW is the Director for the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment's Division of Pharmacologic Therapies at SAMHSA. She has extensive clinical and administrative experience in opioid treatment services and has led a continuum of inpatient and outpatient SUD prevention and treatment services in hospital and in community-based settings. She served as an OTP accreditation surveyor, provided technical assistance to OTP's and states on provision of quality OTP services and implementation of evidence-based practices. Throughout her career, she integrated comprehensive SUD treatment services and general medical services to reduce barriers to service delivery and improve access to care. She has demonstrated a commitment to workforce development by serving on NYS's counselor credentialing and peer certification boards, facilitated placement of students in SUD treatment services, conducted staff training and taught SUD in MSW programs. Dr. Juliana holds a doctorate in social work. She is a clinical social worker licensed in NY and CT and a certified trauma professional. She conducted research and service evaluation studies and has been published in a variety of journals and textbooks on issues related to opioid use and treatment.

Rose Laurano is the Harm Reduction Manager, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction, for the City of Philadelphia Department of Health and has been working in Philadelphia harm reduction for almost a decade, with much of that time dedicated to direct service. They worked at Prevention Point Philadelphia for 7 years, and subsequently worked in substance use oriented clinical research. They graduated with their MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Temple University in Spring 2024.

Anitra Lyles is Director of Community Services, Passages to Recovery, and boasts over 30 years of expertise in drug and alcohol treatment, mental health, and criminal justice. As the Director of Community Services at Passages to Recovery, she supervises several pivotal programs, including the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), Certified Recovery Support (CRS), and Peer Advocacy Support Services (PASS). Her extensive experience spans from case management to clinical supervision, emphasizing program development that enhances service accessibility for vulnerable populations. Anitra holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from California University and is a certified Family Recovery Support Specialist. Beyond her professional role, she advocates for mothers and families affected by incarceration.

Michael Lynch, MD, FACMT is associate professor of emergency medicine at the University of Pittsburgh and an attending emergency physician and medical toxicologist at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Lynch graduated from the University of Notre Dame and University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine before completing his residency in emergency medicine and fellowship in medical toxicology at the University of Pittsburgh. He is an assistant professor of Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh and works in the emergency departments at UPMC Presbyterian and Mercy Hospitals. Dr. Lynch is the Medical Director of the Pittsburgh Poison Center and of SUD Services at UPMC Health Plan, and he continues to serve on the Boards of Directors for the PA College of Emergency Physicians and the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

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Kenneth J. Martz, Psy.D. MBA is a licensed psychologist. He has worked in the treatment and management of addiction (including gambling) for the past 30 years across settings including outpatient, residential, and hospital settings. He was formerly the Special Assistant to the Secretary for the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Policy Director in Substance Use Disorders of the Governor's Policy Office. He is the Co-Chair of the Policy Committee for NAADAC, the international association for addictions professionals as well as President of the Pennsylvania Association of Addictions Professionals, the Commonwealth affiliate of NAADAC. Dr. Martz has a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the Argosy University. He has authored a dozen publications, six bestsellers, including the international bestseller *Manage My Emotions*, translated into multiple languages. He has over 100 local, national, and international presentations in the addictions treatment field.

Kayla Milton is a dedicated Senior Program Manager at Passages to Recovery, leading a team of certified recovery specialists and spearheading support initiatives for community wellness. Since joining in 2015, Kayla has progressed through various roles, including correctional monitor, case manager, and court liaison, gaining invaluable skills that enhance her leadership in the addiction recovery field. With a background in criminal justice and a personal connection to addiction through family experiences, Kayla brings empathy and a robust understanding of the recovery process. She is recognized for her outstanding leadership, communication, and crisis management abilities, emphasizing the importance of teamwork and collaborative environments. Kayla's dual expertise in criminal justice and recovery treatment enables her to effectively bridge the gap between the justice system and rehabilitation services, fostering transformative pathways for those affected by addiction. Committed to community outreach, Kayla continues to equip her team with essential resources, contributing positively and supportively to community wellness efforts.

Michael Muldrow is currently the Police Commissioner for the York City Police Department. Commissioner Muldrow began his career in law enforcement as a correctional officer at York County Prison, until joining the York City Police Department in May of 2000. In his time with YCPD he served on the community policing unit, the mobile neighborhood policing team and assisted the York County Drug Taskforce as a sworn county detective. In January of 2006, Muldrow became a federal officer for the Department of Defense Police Department in New Cumberland. Muldrow has since served as an officer with other county departments, including serving on the Criminal Response Unit for the York County Sherriff's Department. For 12 years Muldrow served as the Chief of School Police and Safety Services for the York City School District, where he led a team of 15 officers and 30 civilians in efforts to improve the safety and community culture of the York City School District. Muldrow was integral in the creation of the department, and is most proud of his work in strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and our community.

Jennifer Murphy, Ph.D is Professor and Chair of Criminal Justice at Penn State Berks. Her research and teaching interests explore and analyze drug policies, stigma toward people who use drugs, and the treatment for substance use disorder within the criminal justice system. Her recent publications examined stigma among police officers toward people who use drugs and their perspectives on harm reduction policies. She has also studied recruitment and retention issues for SUD treatment workers and how educational sessions can reduce stigma among college students. Dr. Murphy received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Temple University.

Nicolas Polanco, MD, CHW, is the Culturally Responsive Clinical Services Subject Matter Expert for Latino Connection. He graduated as a medical doctor from the Dominican Republic in 2022 and is studying to get a United States medical license. He works as a Project Manager/ Certified Interpreter and he is one of the coordinators for the tobacco cessation and control projects. He oversees different types of projects like Pleasure Responsibly, PennState Research mobility study, and blood pressure self-monitoring program for LGBTQ+ communities. He provides translation services (English and Spanish) at Latino Connection/ Color and

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Culture Catalyst. Dr. Polanco also provides education and training to the public including a recent webinar in partnership with Penn State Cancer Institute about the public health impacts of menthol tobacco.

David Shelton is a Peer Support Specialist/CRS, Passages to Recovery. David is a seasoned professional in addiction recovery and support. Working closely with the McKeesport Probation Office, David offers critical support to individuals within the judicial system struggling with substance abuse, providing guidance on treatment options, housing, and employment. His prior roles include Recovery Support Specialist Supervisor at Recovery Center of America, where he led and educated on 12-step recovery models, and Behavioral Health Supervisor at Pyramid, focusing on developing effective recovery safety plans. David also brings experience from Three Rivers Youth, where he managed recovery plans and life skills as a Recovery House Case Manager, and later as a Family Specialist and Outreach Coordinator, enhancing family reunification efforts and community engagement. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Counseling, has completed numerous state-sanctioned and recovery-specific trainings, and actively presents on substance use disorders within the Pittsburgh community. Celebrating over thirty years of personal recovery, David shares his journey to inspire a life of sobriety and resilience across the nation.

Brittany Shutz is the executive director of the York Opioid Collaborative, a non-profit community-based organization working to reduce the adverse impact of substance use on York County. Brittany has experience working within the behavioral health field in different capacities, from case management to revention. Brittany served as a case manager for the drug treatment court program with York/Adams Drug and Alcohol Commission, the Single County Authority [SCA], before stepping into the role of Prevention Program Specialist with the agency. In this position, she oversaw the implementation, funding and organization of primary prevention programming, naloxone distribution, provider training and community outreach. Brittany also has experience within Community Relations, through her experience working with the SCA and Behavioral Health Managed Care Organization. During her time within the field, she has developed strong working relationships with cross-sector partners working towards combatting the effects of substance use on the community. Through this work, she understands that collaboration and a multi-systemic approach is the catalyst for change. Brittany has a bachelor's degree in Sociology/ Criminology and a master's degree in Public Health.

Carla Sofronski is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the PA Harm Reduction Network. She previously was an Advocacy Manager at Mental Health Partnerships (MHPHOPE). A passionate advocate, speaker, and community organizer, Carla has worked in several capacities, using her experience and knowledge of housing, disability rights, harm reduction, and recovery. Carla brings her own perspective as a person who has lost family members to preventable overdose deaths and as an individual with lived experience in substance use and navigating the criminal justice system and the behavioral healthcare system.

Daniel Teixeira da Silva, MD is the Medical Director, Division of Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. He completed medical school at Boston University and residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Chicago. He also completed a Master of Science in health policy at the University of Pennsylvania and continues to work clinically as a hospitalist at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. In his role at PDPH, he works to inform clinicians and community-based organizations of changes in Philadelphia's drug supply and support strategies and education to improve care for people who use drugs.

Carrie Thomas Goetz, PhD is currently the Senior Epidemiologist for the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Office of Drug Surveillance and Misuse Prevention (ODSMP). She joined the ODSMP in October 2016 after spending the previous five years as an infectious disease epidemiologist for the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health. She has bachelor's degrees in biology and psychology from West Virginia University and a PhD in Psychiatric Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh.

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Elizabeth Van Nostrand, JD is an associate professor in the Department of Health Services Administration and Policy at Temple University College of Public Health. She is an expert in legal epidemiology—the study and application of law as an intervention to prevent disease and injury. Her recent work included a five-year legal epidemiology study funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that examined the association between treatment court participation by individuals arrested for substance use and societal and health outcomes. Van Nostrand previously participated in an evaluation of Pennsylvania’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program under the CDC’s OD2A initiative, designed modules to educate Pennsylvania physicians on good opioid prescribing practices, compared U.S. state laws requiring health care provider reporting of perinatal substance use, and mentored several graduate student classes who worked with public health organizations to develop recommendations for reducing recidivism for opioid related crimes, evaluate county level implementation of plans of safe care, explored naloxone distribution sites, and created strategies for reducing stigma for pregnant individuals who use substances. Her other interests include disaster preparedness research. She is the co-author of three public health emergency law bench books for health departments in the District of Columbia, Louisiana and Pennsylvania.

Tamar Wallace is a Public Health Analyst, Overdose Response Strategy, Liberty Mid-Atlantic High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. She is an experienced evaluator with a demonstrated history of working at the intersection between public health and public safety. Tamar is a strong research professional skilled in program and intervention evaluation and public health and passionate about reducing the impact of the opioid epidemic through prevention, collaboration, data collection and analysis, harm reduction, and education. Tamar applies a trauma-informed, harm reduction lens to bring together local and statewide partners to implement promising and evidence-based programs to reduce overdoses and the impacts of substances on the community, the individual, and the family. Tamar graduated with a M.S. in Human Development and Family Studies from Penn State University.

Alice Zhang, MD, MPH is a family medicine physician and Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Penn State College of Medicine. Her clinical experience in treating substance use disorder has motivated her to find creative and innovative ways to deliver treatment and harm reduction items/services to those who need it the most. She has a passion for addressing health disparities and public health needs, conducting community-engaged research, and reaching the underserved. Her recent research has focused on pre-arrest diversion programs for substance use disorder, and on using implementation science frameworks to implement and evaluate low-barrier access methods for harm reduction.