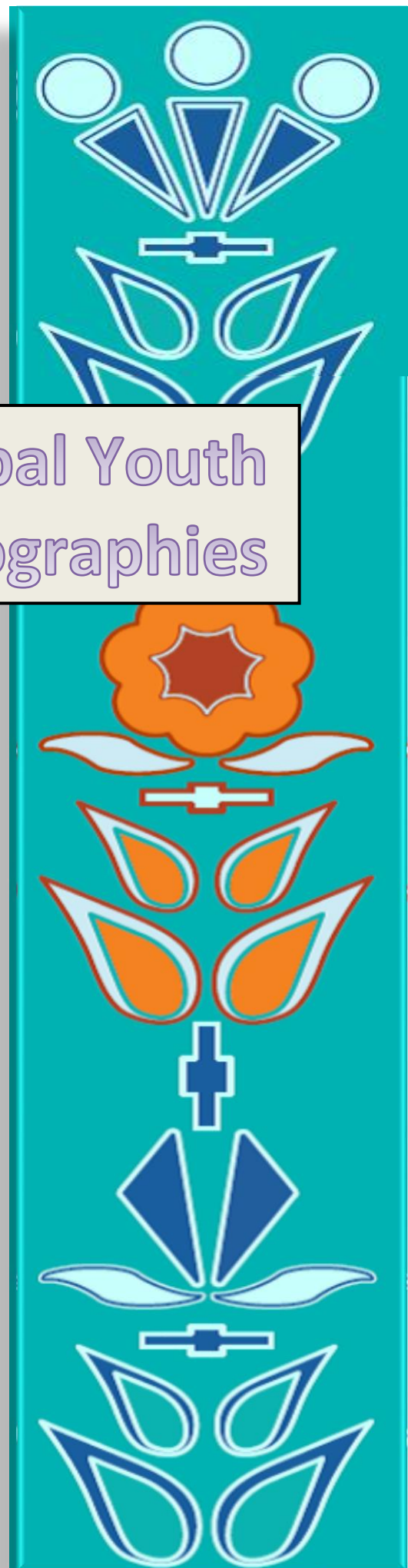


# OJJDP 2018 National Tribal Youth Conference Speaker Biographies





## OJJDP 2018 Tribal Youth Conference

Speaker Biographies | December 3-4, 2018

Reservation of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, California

**Monday December 3, 2018**

**Day 1: Speaker Biographies**

### **Opening Plenary: "From Grieving to Believing, A Brother's Story"**

**Carlos Rivera (Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians), CADC II** Carlos Rivera serves as Executive Director at White Bison, Inc., he is a licensed drug and alcohol counselor and works in the areas of drug and alcohol assessment, treatment, support, intervention, mentorship, rehabilitation, Wellbriety, and support for victims of trauma. Rivera brings hope to Native Americans with his life-changing personal journey. Growing up without a mother or father figure, Rivera became a ward of the court at age 13. He spent his teen years living on the streets or in group homes, treatment programs or juvenile detention centers. Through the process of intervention and recovery, Rivera found a sense of direction and the motivation to build a healthy foundation for his own family. After earning a degree in chemical dependency studies, Rivera became a substance abuse counselor and was appointed by California Gov. Jerry Brown to the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency State Committee. He currently serves as Executive Director at White Bison, Inc., an international non-profit that provides culturally-based healing resources to Native America.

**Day 1: 10:45 a – 12:00 p Concurrent Sessions**

### **The Building of a Youth Diversion Program**

**Johanna Farmer, J.D. Tiwahe Program Manager** Johanna Farmer is Lakota and an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. She is an attorney and works as the Program Manager for Itom Yoemia Initiative (known on the national level as the Tiwahe Initiative) at the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. The Itom Yoemia Initiative mission is to improve system coordination and integration of service delivery among Yaqui government agencies to Yaqui families. The Initiative works to strengthen the Pascua Yaqui Community and families through tribally driven and culturally relevant service models with an emphasis on intervention and prevention services. She has worked for the Tribe since 2009 developing and managing youth programming including all children's services at the Social Services Department, a juvenile diversion program focused on mentoring at the Office of the Prosecutor, and a juvenile defense program. She co-created a truancy diversion program in the Office of the Prosecutor, which improved attendance for participants by 7%. Johanna earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science, Theatre Arts, and Native American Studies from the University of Minnesota, Morris and her Juris Doctorate from the University Of Arizona James E. Rogers College Of Law. Johanna graduated from UA with the Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Certificate. Her passion to serve her community comes from her Grandparents' encouragement and the example they set as World War II veterans and public servants. Her Grandpa was a public defender and judge, but regrettably never got the opportunity to attend law school. He always said he wanted a lawyer in the family and got his wish when Johanna became his first grandchild to be admitted as a member to the State of Arizona Bar Association.

**Annette Leyva, Attendance Achievement Administrator- Pascua Yacqui Tribe-** Annette Bernice Leyva is currently the Attendance Achievement Program Administrator for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. Ms. Leyva has 20 years of experience working with families, 14 with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. As a result of a strong collaborative effort with the PYT Office of the Prosecutor in 2012, a truancy diversion pilot program was developed. The pilot program was approved and endorsed by Tribal Attorney General, Police Chief, Chief Prosecutor, Education Director, and Tribal Council giving the Pascua Yaqui Tribe one of the first active tribal truancy codes in Indian country. Annette continued program implementation of the diversion program by revising codes, creating guidelines, and collaborating with local educational agencies. Her relentless focus to create, strengthen and implement intergovernmental agreements both internally and with non-tribal governments was a necessary foundation to the newly developed program. By approval of Tribal Council in 2014, the Attendance Achievement Program was enacted as a tribal truancy diversion program. One of the greatest assets is her work in identifying gaps in services for families and subsequently providing resources where gaps exist. She supports case managers as they provide direct support and referrals to appropriate programs for additional services to achieve the program goals. She networks with school personnel to identify student's needs and resources available for students and their families at school sites. Annette's commitment to quality of life through the empowerment of educational enrichment is not only in the philosophy and mission of the Attendance Achievement program, but also part of her own life philosophy.

#### **Integrating Financial Management Skills Training into Juvenile Justice Programming**

**Cortney Yarholer, M.S.W., OJJDP Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center** Cortney Yarholer is an enrolled member of the Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma as well as descendent of the Muscogee Creek, Pawnee and Otoe Tribes. He is a social work practitioner focusing on systems change, program development, and culturally-based interventions. Specializing in Cultural Competency, Suicide Prevention, Children's Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, and Trauma Informed Service Systems. In 2003 he attained his B.A. From the University of Oklahoma majoring in Native American Studies. In 2006 attained a Master's degree in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. For over 10 years Cortney has provided professional development training and technical assistance regarding program development and evaluation with behavioral health programs and initiatives across Indian country. He is happy to serve as a resource for you and your community.

#### **Caring for Native Youth with Substance Use Disorders**

**Mark Espinosa- M.P.H.A. Director and Health Systems Administrator, California Area Office, Youth Regional Treatment Center (YRTC), Indian Health Service** Mr. Mark Espinosa was hired as the Health Systems Administrator. He is the Youth Regional Treatment Center (YRTC) Director of the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center. Mark was born and raised in California and is an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (Cherokee, NC). Prior to coming to the CAO, Mark was Chief Operating Officer at a Sacramento community health clinic. Mark also served as the Executive Director of the San Francisco Native American Health Center (7+ years) and also worked at a Tribal health clinic. As Health Systems Administrator, Mark is responsible for the operational and logistical planning for the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center. This includes development of policies and procedures, licensing, staff hiring and development, accreditation, and the day-to-day operations of the facility. Mark will also be responsible for the second California YRTC, Sacred Oaks, located in Davis, CA and is scheduled to open late 2019/early 2020. Mark completed his undergraduate training at the University of California, Davis and holds a Master's degree in Health Care Administration from Golden Gate University.

**Carrie Greene, M.S. Ed. LPCC- Behavioral Health Consultant, California Area Office, Youth Regional Treatment Center (YRTC), Indian Health Service** Ms. Greene is the Behavioral Health Consultant at the California Area Indian Health Service (CAIHS). In her role she provides consultation services to 44 Tribal and 10 Urban Health Clinics throughout California. She is the Project Coordinator for the Aftercare Pilot Project Grant at Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center and is the Project

Officer for several tribal health clinics. Ms. Greene completed her Bachelors in Exercise Science (2004) and Masters in Community Mental Health Counseling (2007) at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. Prior to working at CAIHS, she worked with youth and families in the juvenile justice system. She later worked for AmeriCorps NCCC as a Counselor and Lead Trainer. Ms. Greene is a Mental Health First Aid instructor and an advocate for health equity.

## Day 1: 1:30 p – 3:00 p Concurrent Sessions

### **Mentoring for Inspiration and Action**

**Elizabeth Santiago- Chief Program Officer, National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR)** Elizabeth Santiago is the Chief Program Officer for MENTOR. In this role, she is responsible for and actively involved in the management of programs and services for a wide range of stakeholders. She works with a team to implement a continuous quality improvement process throughout the program and service areas, focusing on systems and process improvement. Prior to MENTOR, Elizabeth gained extensive experience in program management and development, instructional design, curriculum development, training and professional development with organizations such as Jobs for the Future, Simmons College, Babson College, Houghton Mifflin, and World Education. She has specific experience in working with vulnerable youth and the systems and people that serve them. She has taught high school equivalency courses within school districts, community-based organizations and through unions, and managed the GED/high school equivalency program at the Harriet Tubman House in Boston, MA.

**Desireé Robertson- Director of Training and Product Design, National Mentoring Partnership (MENTOR)** Desireé Robertson is the Director of Training and Product Design for MENTOR. In this role, she is responsible for driving and executing MENTOR's vision for quality training development and product design including ensuring that our products, tools and trainings are developed with best practices in adult learning theory, and instructional and information design. Prior to MENTOR, Desireé gained extensive experience in mentoring, program management and development, curriculum development, training and professional development by directing the local mentoring affiliate in Memphis, Tennessee and with organizations such as Girls Incorporated of Memphis, Inc. In Memphis, she was a Sociology adjunct professor for over a decade at Southwest Tennessee Community College, Christian Brothers University and the University of Memphis. Nationally, Desireé has been a National Technical Assistance Provider for the National Mentoring Resource Center and also served as a member of MENTOR's Mentoring Affiliate Advisory Council (MAAC).

### **"Coming Home: Understanding and Addressing Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Native Communities"**

**Logan Tootle- Safe Harbor Youth Worker, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center** Logan Tootle is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation and currently lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she works at the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC). At MIWRC, located in the heart of the Minneapolis American Indian community, Logan is the Safe Harbor Youth Worker. She provides direct services, including individual case management and culturally specific support groups, to Native youth 24 and under who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing commercial sexual exploitation in the Twin Cities. Logan approaches her direct service work with a harm reduction strategy aimed to provide support to youth by meeting them where they are. In addition to direct service, Logan engages in and facilitates a variety of trainings within the community, including organizing a three day conference in June of 2018 titled Bring Her Home: Creating Tribal Responses to Commercial Sexual Exploitation. She was recently featured in a Minnesota Native News special titled The Fight against Sex Trafficking. Logan holds a B.A. in International Studies and Sociology from Macalester College.

### **Drum-Assisted Recovery Therapy for Native Americans (DARTNA): A Promising Substance Use Prevention Program for American Indians and Alaska Natives**

**Daniel Dickerson, D.O., M.P.H.,-Associate research Psychiatrist, UCLA, Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP)** Daniel Dickerson, D.O., M.P.H., *Inupiaq*, is an addiction psychiatrist and Associate Research Psychiatrist at UCLA, Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (ISAP). He also provides psychiatric services at American Indian Counseling Center (AICC) through the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. His research focuses on the development of substance abuse treatment and prevention programs for Native American youth and adults. He is currently Co-Principal Investigator on National Institutes of Health-funded study, "Motivational Interviewing and Culture for Urban Native American Youth (MICUNAY)" an alcohol and drug use prevention research program targeting urban Native American youth. He is also the Principal Investigator on a study investigating the potential benefits of a substance use intervention utilizing drumming for Native Americans, "Drum-Assisted Recovery Therapy for Native Americans (DARTNA)," and is also co-Principal Investigator on "Native American Youth Sleep, Health, and Wellness (NAYSHAW)," a study analyzing health and sleep and urban Native American youth.

### **Day 1: 3:30 p – 5:00 p Concurrent Sessions**

#### **We R Native: Harnessing Technology to Improve Health Outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native Youth**

**Danica Brown, Ph.D., MSW, CAC III, Healthy Native Youth, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board** Danica is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation born and raised in Northern New Mexico. She has worked as a Social Worker, Human Service provider and youth advocate for over 21 years. She has a history of working in the areas of prevention, drug and alcohol/mental health treatment, community and restorative justice with Native American and adjudicated youth, and she specializes in working with culturally and socio-economically diverse populations. She recently defended her dissertation in the doctoral program at Portland State University, Graduate School of Social Work. She is an Indigenous Wellness Research Institute fellow and Council of Social Work Education, Minority Fellowship Program fellow alumni. Her research has focused on Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Decolonizing Methodologies, with a focus on the healing of historical trauma and its impact on health outcomes. Ms. Brown is currently working at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board as the Health Communitations Coordinator with the Healthy Native Youth project.

#### **Building Cohesion and Community Collectives- Tribal Youth Circle Peacemaking**

**Erin Thin Elk, M.S.W.- OJJDP Tribal Youth TTA Center** Erin Thin Elk (*Wanahca To Ka Heh Hinapah Win*, First Flower that Blooms Woman) is a member of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate (Rosebud Sioux Tribe). She earned a B.A. in English and a Certificate in Native American Studies (2002) and a MSW (2004) both from the University of Iowa. Ms. Thin Elk holds a passionate commitment to health, wellness and social justice for tribal children, youth and families. Her professional experience includes culturally competent behavioral health practice, community-based participatory research and evaluation, mental health prevention and postvention training and programmatic development, and teaching and educational outreach with Native communities across the United States. She currently serves as a Senior Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center. Ms. Thin Elk currently resides with her beautiful children in Minnesota.

**Kris Miner Schweigert, MS Counseling, South Dakota State University- Circle Space Services** Kris is currently the director at Circle Space Services, providing Restorative Justice and Peacemaking Circle training. She has twenty years of experience in Restorative Justice. She has worked as a facilitator, director, practitioner, professor and training consultant. Her work has included all forms of restorative justice practices, including conferencing, family group, victim offender dialogue (simple to serious) and extensive work with Peacemaking Circles. She is familiar

and skilled at assisting in a variety of settings from pre-K to prison communities. For a decade she led a small non-profit in Western Wisconsin. In this capacity she designed and developed several programs utilizing Peacemaking Circles and addressing public health concerns. After several years volunteering for the MN Department of Corrections she was hired to coordinate victim offender dialogue in severe crime and coordinate VOCARE, a process that utilizes Peacemaking Circles, community members, victims and offenders. She trained at the first school to utilize Restorative Practices in Texas. She assisted the Texas Education Agency in the development of statewide trainings for school staff. She was the lead trainer for Restorative Discipline Coordinator trainings held across Texas. She has provided trainings across the United States. She received her Masters Degree in Counseling in 1994, she lives on her family ranch with her husband, horses, dogs, donkey and a flock of sheep.

### **Screening and Assessment to Support Tribal Youth- Creating Culturally Relevant Tools and Resources**

**Evan Elkin, Ph.D.- National Executive Director, Reclaiming Futures** - Evan Elkin is a nationally respected innovator and leader in the field of juvenile justice, child welfare reform, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and youth development. Originally trained as a psychologist at New York University and researcher at the New York Psychiatric Institute and Columbia University's Department of Child Psychiatry, his work has been at the intersection of public health and social justice for the nation's most vulnerable populations. Most recently, Evan designed a treatment alternative to incarceration program for mentally ill adults for the Greenburger Center for Social and Criminal Justice, and served as the Director of the Department of Planning and Government Innovation for the Vera Institute of Justice where he was a member of the senior management team. He also oversaw Vera's work in the area of Child Welfare and Justice and served as Project Director for two successful demonstration projects. For more than a decade, Evan has been a trusted technical advisor in the government and non-profit sectors on policy strategy, program development, evaluation and training, and was the treatment model developer for the Vera Institute's acclaimed Adolescent Portable Therapy program, as well as Reclaiming Futures' new juvenile justice focused approach to Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). He has served as a consultant in the Research and Evaluation Center at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Phoenix House, The Children's Village, and is one of the founders of the Stargate Theatre Company – a theatre company for formerly incarcerated youth.

**Dolores Subia Bigfoot, Ph.D.-Director, OJJDP Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center, (OUHSC)-** Dolores Subia BigFoot, PhD, is trained as a child psychologist, and is an associate professor directing the Native American Programs at the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect at University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She is currently the director of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Department of Justice, Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center, a national center that provides training and technical assistance to OJJDP Tribal Youth Programs and Healing to Wellness programs across Indian Country. She is a nationally recognized speaker and trainer. She has directed Project Making Medicine, a clinical training program for mental health clinicians working in Indian Country, since 1994 while also directing the Indian Country Child Trauma Center. It was under the guidance of Dr. BigFoot at the Indian Country Child Trauma Center that three evidenced based treatments were adapted for American Indian and Alaska Native families in titled the Honoring Children Series. Each of these EBT models incorporates American Indian and Alaska Native orientations and world views. She is a member of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma and affiliated with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana in which her children are enrolled.

**Judge Chantel Cloud- Southern Ute Tribe** Chief Judge Cloud holds a BA from the University of Colorado, Boulder and a Masters in Criminal Justice from the University of Colorado, Denver. She has worked within the judicial system in various capacities and with varying populations, including youth, adults and families. Her previous work

has included case management for juvenile treatment and adult probation. In August of 2010 after returning to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe she began serving within the judicial system as a probation office/case manager for the wellness court program. She was appointed as an Associate Judge in training for the Chief Judge position in May of 2011 and was appointed as Chief Judge in 2013. In her role as Chief Judge, Judge Cloud oversaw the administration of the Tribal Court including the Probation and Family Court Support services. The docket also included criminal and civil cases that are within the jurisdiction of the Southern Ute Indian tribe. She is the mother of two great kids.

**Tuesday December 4, 2018**

**Day 2 Speaker Biographies**

**Day 2 8:30 a – 10:00 a Concurrent Sessions**

**Youth Violence Reduction Causes and Cessation Christopher Cuestas- North Dakota Native American Drug and Gang Initiative (NADGI) and National Violence Prevention Resource Center** Christopher Cuestas is a nationally recognized gang and drug reduction expert, working in tribal lands since 1996. Chris is retired from the Tucson Police Department, and served as lead detective in the street gang unit. Currently Chris serves as a Technical Assistance provider with the Department of Justice and Office for Victims of Crime. He works in the areas of gang/drug reduction and sex and human trafficking in tribal lands. Chris was awarded the only nationally recognized "best practice" in tribal lands for his GRIPS (gang reduction through intervention prevention and suppression strategy). Chris has recently been appointed as the NADGI (Native American Drug and Gang Initiative) board president to develop and coordinate a North Dakota regional gang and drug task force. Chris has over 39 years of field experience in developing strategic plans and programming for juvenile violence and delinquency reduction.

**Creating Connections for Youth through Culture, Court, and Club**

**Hon. Whitney Gravelle- Chief Judge Bay Mills Indian Community** Whitney Gravelle is Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) from Bay Mills Indian Community the "Place of the Pike" in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Whitney currently serves as the Chief Judge of Bay Mills Tribal Court, and is the Tribal Youth Program Coordinator for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bay Mills. Whitney attended Michigan State University where she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies and Political Science. Afterwards, she continued her education at Michigan State University College of Law where she graduated cum laude with a Juris Doctorate. During her studies, she also obtained a certificate in Indigenous Law by taking classes focusing on Federal Indian Law; the Indian Child Welfare Act; Tribal Law and Regulation; and Global Perspectives on Indigenous People. Whitney's professional background includes working for the Udall Congressional Washington D.C. Program, the Native American Rights Fund, the Michigan Supreme Court in Justice Bridget McCormack's Chambers, the Michigan Attorney General's Office in the Indian Child Welfare Section, Michigan State University's Indian Law Clinic, and the Department of Justice in the Natural Resource and Environmental Division with the Indian Resource Section. Currently, Whitney's work is centered around transforming restorative justice within her community by providing truth and healing to her Tribe through modern cultural Court practices.

**Candace LeBlanc- Asst. Director Boys and Girls Club of Bay Mills** Candice LeBlanc is Ojibwe from Bay Mills Indian Community in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. She is currently the Assistant Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bay Mills, overseeing three sites within the community. Candice oversees and coordinates the Tribal Youth Program, Child Nutrition Program, Native Youth Empowerment Program at the Club along with her managerial duties. Candice's educational focus is health, wellness, and community development with an emphasis on leadership and Anishnaabe culture. Her professional background includes youth development, child care, community health, and outreach services. Candice's goal is building collaborative efforts between tribal departments and schools to bridge the gaps in services provided to youth and families.

**Joshua Hudson- Program Manager for the National Native Network at the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan** Joshua

Hudson is Ojibwe from Bay Mills Indian Community in Northern Michigan. He currently serves as the Program Manager for the National Native Network, in addition to being duly elected as an Appellate Judge for Bay Mills Indian Community. He has an educational background centered in public administration, leadership and American Indian studies; with work experience spanning coast to coast in a variety of capacities including substance abuse, mental health, youth development, and public health. He is passionate about healing from inter-generational trauma and creating inclusive and welcoming spaces in Indian Country. Within his current work with the National Native Network, he provides training and technical assistance nationally while also working to develop, cultivate, and disseminate resources centered on cancer and commercial tobacco prevention and control.

**Perspectives on Development of the Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court- Panel Discussion and Peer Dialogue**

**Chantel Cloud-** Chief Judge Cloud holds a BA from the University of Colorado, Boulder and a Masters in Criminal Justice from the University of Colorado, Denver. She has worked within the judicial system in various capacities and with varying populations, including youth, adults and families. Her previous work has included case management for juvenile treatment and adult probation. In August of 2010 after returning to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe she began serving within the judicial system as a probation office/case manager for the wellness court program. She was appointed as an Associate Judge in training for the Chief Judge position in May of 2011 and was appointed as Chief Judge in 2013. In her role as Chief Judge, Judge Cloud oversaw the administration of the Tribal Court including the Probation and Family Court Support services. The docket also included criminal and civil cases that are within the jurisdiction of the Southern Ute Indian tribe. She is the mother of two great kids.

**Tiffany Jackson-Executive Director, Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point** Tiffany Jackson is a wife, and mom to three children Wolf (18), Hawk (13), and Willow (7). She is Tlingit and Aleut, and a citizen of the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point. Tiffany serves as the Executive Director of the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point. In this position she serves as the Tribal Court Clerk; applies for, receives, and manages federal grants and contracts; and advises the Tribal Council on policy and business decisions. Tiffany has also served on the Aleutians East Borough School Board since 2007, serving 9 years as President. She has served with the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) since 2010 and on the National School Board Association since April of 2016. In these rolls, Tiffany has worked at developing her own skills as a board member, and encouraging other board members to develop their skills in order to improve their roll in governing our school districts, and becoming better advocates for all of Alaska's students. She has also served on the Alaska Governor's Tribal Advisory Council since its inception in 2016.

**Shelley Kaleak- Tribal Court Clerk, Native Village of Barrow**

**Tracy Benson- Juvenile Program Coordinator, Native Village of Barrow**

**Anna Rangel Clough, JD, Asst. Dr. OJJDP Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center** Anna Rangel Clough, J.D is Muscogee (Creek) and Yuchi Tribe of Oklahoma. She earned BS Sociology/Criminology minor in Native American Studies from the University of Oklahoma, and a Juris Doctorate and Certificate in Native American Law from the Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Mrs. Clough has focused her legal practice to work with children and families in the areas of Family, Juvenile Justice and Tribal Law. A majority of her time has been spent in serving tribal families in both State and Tribal Courts



throughout the State of Oklahoma. She has served in many capacities, including Tribal prosecutor, guardian ad litem, civil legal services for victims of domestic violence, and as special counsel to tribal administrations. She is a licensed member of the Oklahoma Bar Association and has been admitted to practice in numerous Tribal courts. She recently completed the Tribal Juvenile Healing to Wellness Handbook, a resource manual for Tribal communities and has developed several other resources supportive of Tribal juvenile justice court development.

## Day 2 10:30 a – 12:00 p Concurrent Sessions

### **Tribal Youth Program Peer Perspectives- Mescalero Apache Tribal Youth Program “Remembering Your Past to Create Your Future”**

**Ardena Orosco- Prevention Director Mescalero Apache Tribe** Ardena Orosco is a member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe. She has lived in Mescalero, New Mexico for most of her life. She is married to David Orosco, they have four children, two girls and two boys, and are proud Grandparents of Twins, a boy and a girl. She has worked in the field of Substance Abuse Prevention on behalf of the Mescalero Apache Tribe for the past 18 years. Prior to becoming a Certified Preventionist, she worked in the Education field as a teaching assistant, she coached Volleyball and Cross country for 10 years at the Mescalero Apache Schools. As Prevention Director of the Mescalero Prevention Program, she enjoys and takes pride in the opportunity to work with many facades of people from Youth to Elder. Her main goal is to Educate and learn from the community about the issue’s concerning Substance Abuse Prevention. Ardena has manage grants from the New Mexico Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse Mental Health Association, University of New Mexico, Office of Juvenile Justice Program- Tribal Youth Program and the Federal Drug Administration on Tobacco Compliance. Ardena has specific training in the field of Substance abuse and Suicide prevention, she has received training in Digital Storytelling, Historic Trauma, Strength Based planning, Facilitator training, Question, Persuade & Refer (QPR), Dare to Be You Parenting program, SAMHSA model of Strategic Prevention Framework and Gathering of Native American’s (GONA). She dedicated to the health and Well-being of her Tribe and all Native communities.

**Eloise Damon- Mescalero Apache Tribal Youth Program** Eloise graduated from Tularosa High School and attended the University of New Mexico where she earned her Associates in Elementary Education. Eloise works within her community as a Preventionist for many years. She has gained valuable knowledge, skills and experience needed to work in the field of prevention. During this time she has worked closely with the youth, parents, Elders, and community members. Living on the Reservation she has learned, shared and practiced her culture and traditional ways of her people. Eloise loves to cook, sew and being around family and friends. She feels it is important to be optimistic. It’s what keep her motivated especially when the world can be unkind.

### **Circle Work as Intervention in the Tribal Juvenile Justice System**

**Phil Burdick, Co-Superintendent Sitka Public Schools** Phil Burdick has been with the Sitka School District for the past 23 years. He started his education career as an English and Social Studies teacher and moved into the role of co-principal at Pacific High School in 2010. Since 2015 he has been Co-Assistant Superintendent of the district working mainly in the areas of professional learning and educator evaluation. His areas of focus are co-creating a culturally responsive education in partnership with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska through Culturally Responsive Embedded Social Emotional Learning (CRESEL) and supporting all staff in Culturally Responsive teaching practices. He is working with the State of Alaska Department of Education, Alaska Association of Alternative Schools, and Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP) to deliver Circle Peacemaking and Restorative Practices

training and support. He is a participant in the National Community Conferencing Network and a member of the Pathways Coalition and the Alaska Resiliency Initiative and Trauma Informed Systems Change (ARI-TISC) work groups where he is learning how to harness the benefits of collective impact to change the trajectory of all young people but especially those who have been impacted by poverty, racism, and genocide.

**Curt Shuey, Ts'itq'u Circle Coordinator, Kenaitze Indian Tribe** Curt Shuey followed his father's stories to Alaska in 1978 (accompanied by his wife Debbie) after receiving a B.S. in Wildlife Biology. They have lived and worked in various situations around Alaska since then. A growing interest in the way people handle their differences led to an M.A. in Consultation and Conflict Resolution, and eventually his current work. With the support of others near and far who have gone before, he has developed and coordinated the Ts'itq'u Circle program with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe since 2007, and has had the honor and the privilege to serve in over 200 talking Circles for the purpose of discussing difficult or meaningful things in a good way.

### **Sacred Perspectives: What Youth Are Saying About Culture-Based Prevention Programming**

**Allyson Kelley Ph.D., Allyson Kelley and Associates** Dr. Allyson Kelley is a senior community health scientist and the founder of Allyson Kelley & Associates PLLC. Allyson supports research and evaluation efforts for several public health initiatives in the Rocky Mountain region. She leads a multidisciplinary team of associates and together they work to build evaluation capacity, understanding, and infrastructure that results in opportunities for community healing and transformation. She currently serves as an Evaluation Scientist for the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Board of Health, the Boys and Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation, the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council Tribal Prevention Initiative and Transitional Recovery and Culture Project, and Native PRIDE Intergenerational Connections Project. In addition to evaluation, Dr. Kelley works as a qualitative researcher for the National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth at OUHSC and a senior consultant for the Rocky Mountain Tribal Epidemiology Center. Dr. Kelley lives in the beautiful mountains of New Mexico and loves to spend time with family and friends.

## **Day 2 1:30 p – 3:00 p Concurrent Sessions**

### **Restorative Justice Circle Peacemaking Panel**

**Phil Burdick- Sitka School District** Phil Burdick has been with the Sitka School District for the past 23 years. He started his education career as an English and Social Studies teacher and moved into the role of co-principal at Pacific High School in 2010. Since 2015 he has been Co-Assistant Superintendent of the district working mainly in the areas of professional learning and educator evaluation. His areas of focus are co-creating a culturally responsive education in partnership with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska through Culturally Responsive Embedded Social Emotional Learning (CRESEL) and supporting all staff in Culturally Responsive teaching practices. He is working with the State of Alaska Department of Education, Alaska Association of Alternative Schools, and Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP) to deliver Circle Peacemaking and Restorative Practices training and support. He is a participant in the National Community Conferencing Network and a member of the Pathways Coalition and the Alaska Resiliency Initiative and Trauma Informed Systems Change (ARI-TISC) work groups where he is learning how to harness the benefits of collective impact to change the trajectory of all young people but especially those who have been impacted by poverty, racism, and genocide.

**Curt Shuey- Kenaitze Indian Tribe** Curt Shuey followed his father's stories to Alaska in 1978 (accompanied by his wife Debbie) after receiving a B.S. in Wildlife Biology. They have lived and worked in various situations around Alaska since then. A growing interest in the way people handle their differences led to an M.A. in Consultation and

Conflict Resolution, and eventually his current work. With the support of others near and far who have gone before, he has developed and coordinated the Ts'itq'u Circle program with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe since 2007, and has had the honor and the privilege to serve in over 200 talking Circles for the purpose of discussing difficult or meaningful things in a good way.

**Elaine Henderson- Bi-Cultural Training Specialist Navajo Nation** Elaine Henderson is a Bi-Culture Training Specialist and Peacemaker with the Navajo Nation Peacemaking Program. After honorably discharged from the US Army she began her career with the New Mexico State Police. A local Victim Impact Panel changed her career direction towards the Navajo Nation Courts. While working with traditional medicine people constructing what would become the Dine Fundamental Laws Ms. Henderson chose the traditional healing path in Navajo Peacemaking. Since then she has spearheaded the programs' Nabinahaazlaago Alchi'yati which is the Life Value Engagement component of Peacemaking. Presently she provides training and technical assistance across the Navajo Nation to Peacemakers, trial judges and Navajo Nation Bar members on Peacemaking. Ms. Henderson has extensive experience working with troubled youth, parents and elders and is involved in the Juvenile Healing to Wellnes Courts on Dine Nation. She has assisted in writing curriculum for the second Peacemaking Youth Education and Apprenticeship Program grant. Ms. Henderson believes she has a responsibility to do her part in healing her people and the leaders of the Dine Nation, her team has taken the lead to providing the highest quality peacemaking service and are highly respected in the traditional healing community.

**Dawnell Begay- Office Specialist Navajo Nation.**

**Roman Bistuie- Program Coordinator Navajo Nation** Roman Bitsuie is the Program Coordinator for the Navajo Nation Peacemaking Program. Part of the Judicial Branch of Navajo government, Peacemaking uses Navajo traditional methods to resolve problems. These traditions contrast sharply with Anglo-American methods. Peacemaking focuses on healing and restoration of all persons to productive, full membership in Navajo society by bringing people together to agree on an outcome that fulfills traditional beliefs about justice. Roman's experiences made him uniquely suited for this role. He is a traditional adviser, having studied Navajo culture, ceremonies, and medicine for about thirty years. He is the first Navajo to graduate from Princeton and has served the Navajo government in many roles. As Executive Director of the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission, Roman was responsible to bring to resolution a 100-year dispute about the boundary between these Tribes, and to negotiate with the federal government for leases accommodations for so-called resisters and secure benefits for approximately 16,000 Navajo people. He has also worked on Navajo Nation tax policy, creation of a permanent trust fund, economic development, and youth issues. Roman is frequently called upon as a speaker within and outside the Navajo Nation, to discuss Peacemaking, Navajo traditions and culture, and public policy.

**Hon. Whitney Gravelle- Chief Judge Bay Mills Indian Community** Whitney Gravelle is Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) from Bay Mills Indian Community the "Place of the Pike" in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Whitney currently serves as the Chief Judge of Bay Mills Tribal Court, and is the Tribal Youth Program Coordinator for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bay Mills. Whitney attended Michigan State University where she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies and Political Science. Afterwards, she continued her education at Michigan State University College of Law where she graduated cum laude with a Juris Doctorate. During her studies, she also obtained a certificate in Indigenous Law by taking classes focusing on Federal Indian Law; the Indian Child Welfare Act; Tribal Law and Regulation; and Global Perspectives on Indigenous People. Whitney's professional background includes working for the Udall Congressional Washington D.C. Program, the Native American Rights Fund, the Michigan Supreme Court in Justice Bridget McCormack's Chambers, the Michigan Attorney General's Office in the Indian Child Welfare Section, Michigan State University's Indian Law Clinic, and the Department of Justice in the Natural Resource and Environmental Division with the Indian Resource Section. Currently, Whitney's work is centered around transforming restorative justice within her community by providing truth and healing to her Tribe through modern cultural Court practices.

**Kris Miner Schweigert- Circle Space Services** Kris is currently the director at Circle Space Services, providing Restorative Justice and Peacemaking Circle training. She has twenty years of experience in Restorative Justice. She has worked as a facilitator, director, practitioner, professor and training consultant. Her work has included all forms of restorative justice practices, including conferencing, family group, victim offender dialogue (simple to serious) and extensive work with Peacemaking Circles. She is familiar and skilled at assisting in a variety of settings from pre-K to prison communities. For a decade she led a small non-profit in Western Wisconsin. In this capacity she designed and developed several programs utilizing Peacemaking Circles and addressing public health concerns. After several years volunteering for the MN Department of Corrections she was hired to coordinate victim offender dialogue in severe crime and coordinate VOCARE, a process that utilizes Peacemaking Circles, community members, victims and offenders. She trained at the first school to utilize Restorative Practices in Texas. She assisted the Texas Education Agency in the development of statewide trainings for school staff. She was the lead trainer for Restorative Discipline Coordinator trainings held across Texas. She has provided trainings across the United States. She received her Masters Degree in Counseling in 1994, she lives on her family ranch with her husband, horses, dogs, donkey and a flock of sheep.

**Re-awakening our Tribal Aunt and Uncle Societies- Douglas Modig, Director-Wellness Court Program Aleut Community of St. Paul Island and Amy Modig, Elder Instructor** Amy and Doug Modig have worked together for the last 35 years in substance abuse, personal and community development. They are married and currently live in Anchorage. Doug Modig is a Tsimshian of the Eagle Clan. He was born and raised in Ketchikan, Alaska. Currently he works as a Director in the Wellness program at the Aleut Community of St Paul Island. Amy Modig is a Deg Hit'an Athabascan of Shageluk and Holikachuk by birth and Tanacross by adoption. She recently retired and currently works as an Elder Instructor with statewide organizations. They both continue a 35 year commitment to a statewide conference for Alaska's rural providers working in substance abuse prevention and joyful sobriety. They are also happy grandparents and Aunt and Uncle to many all over the state.

Day 2: Afternoon Plenary 3:15 p – 4:30 p

**Closing Plenary: The Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Dr. Dolores Subia Bigfoot** Dolores Subia BigFoot, PhD, is trained as a child psychologist, and is an associate professor directing the Native American Programs at the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect at University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She is currently the director of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Department of Justice, Tribal Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center, a national center that provides training and technical assistance to OJJDP Tribal Youth Programs and Healing to Wellness programs across Indian Country. She is a nationally recognized speaker and trainer. She has directed Project Making Medicine, a clinical training program for mental health clinicians working in Indian Country, since 1994 while also directing the Indian Country Child Trauma Center. It was under the guidance of Dr. BigFoot at the Indian Country Child Trauma Center that three evidenced based treatments were adapted for American Indian and Alaska Native families in titled the Honoring Children Series. Each of these EBT models incorporates American Indian and Alaska Native orientations and world views. She is a member of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma and affiliated with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana in which her children are enrolled. Dr. Bigfoot was nominated by United States Representative Nancy Pelosi and appointed by the United States Congress to the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children in November 2017.