



Presenter Biographies
County Behavioral Health Financial Managers' Leadership Institute
December 2-3, 2014

Karen Baylor was appointed as the Deputy Director of Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders for the Department of Health Care Services on June 12, 2013. She previously was the Behavioral Health Administrator for the County of San Luis Obispo for the past eight years. During her time in San Luis Obispo County, she served as President of the California Mental Health Directors Association during 2012. She also served as a Board Officer for the California Mental Health Services Authority from 2010 to 2013. Her previous work experience was with a variety of private, non-profits organizations providing children's mental health services. She has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

Sarah Brichler, Program Manager for the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), is the lead staff for statewide suicide prevention efforts and works on other Joint Powers Authority projects such as Short Doyle Modernization. Previously, she evaluated prevention programs and provided training and technical assistance to substance abuse prevention coalitions. She was the Mental Health Services Act coordinator for San Diego County during development of the Prevention and Early Intervention plan. She earned her master's degree in Research Methods and Health Policy at the University of Virginia.

Beth Conley is the Vice President, Government and Nonprofit Relations for the Kiely Group (KGI). She brings the ability to assess issues from the balcony, to create opportunities by networking resources, and to bring stakeholders together in collaborative efforts. Beth has worked for the KGI for four years. Her work includes projects with California Network of Mental Health Clients, Cal-Neva Community Action Partnership, San Diego County, CalMHSA, Maravilla Foundation, HumPAL (Partnership between RCAA and Humboldt County Public Health), and University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning, and Development. She was faculty on the Sierra Health Foundation Health Leadership Program. Ms. Conley specializes in mapping and analyzing organizational and personal networks for KGI's Rel8™ program. Additionally, she coordinates the technical use of KGI's proprietary narrative analysis software and oversees most of the day-to-day functions of the organization.

Ms. Conley received her MPA from the University of Southern California (USC). While at USC (both as a graduate student and as a consultant after graduating), she coordinated leadership programs for health care executives and mental health directors. She did her undergraduate work at Butler University in Indianapolis. Her other work experience includes project management on a software development project, and technology support for small businesses.

Thad Dickson is President and CEO of Xpio Health, a boutique healthcare technology company founded in 2010 around a simple objective; to provide transformational technology services and solutions to behavioral healthcare organizations. Mr. Dickson is a nationally respected speaker on the subject of Meaningful Use and its role in behavioral health, and works with a variety of EHR systems and applications related to HIE, patient portals, service delivery, billing and financial, and data analytics. Mr. Dickson did his undergraduate work in psychology and literature, holds several Microsoft Technology certifications, and is a Project Management Professional, a member of HIMSS and a Certified Health Information Management Specialist, as well as a member of ISACA, NAMI, and the National Council for Behavioral Health.

Under Thad's leadership, Xpio Health has helped behavioral health organizations and hospitals bring in nearly \$20 Million dollars of federal incentives related to Meaningful Use. Xpio Health does business in over 12 States, and has an excellent track record of delivering EHR implementations that work, and analytics solutions that transform data into information. Xpio Health also has a growing portfolio of software solutions and meaningful use products focused on creating exceptional value for mental health organizations and the clients they serve, and a growing team of consultants that bring unique talent, EHR specific expertise, Jedi-like crystal report writing skills, and a broad and deep range of software and technology know-how under one roof.

Michael R. Geiss is the founder of Geiss Consulting, a Sacramento-based management consulting firm. He has over twenty-five years' experience providing services to public sector agencies. Prior to establishing Geiss Consulting, he had over nine years management consulting experience with NewPoint Group and seven years with Ernst & Young. He specializes in financial and economic analyses, business process improvement and operations analyses. Mr. Geiss has managed and participated in over one-hundred separate engagements for various State of California and other government entities over the last twenty-five years, including more than twenty projects for the California Department of Mental Health, numerous projects for more than 25 county mental health agencies in California, and various projects for the California Mental Health Directors' Association and the California Institute for Mental Health.

Scott Gruendl serves as the Director of the Glenn County Health and Human Services Agency. As Director, Mr. Gruendl oversees a team of 3 deputy directors and 260 staff administering mental health, public health, environmental health, drug and alcohol, well-being programs, social services, employment services, and the Community Action Partnership. His tenure with Glenn County spans 20 years, and includes serving as the Director of the Health and Human Services Agency, Director of the Health Services Agency, and Director of the Glenn County Human Resource Agency.

From 2004 to 2006, and in 2013 Mr. Gruendl has served as Mayor for the City of Chico and has served as the Vice-Mayor for the City of Chico from 2011 to 2013. He was elected as Councilmember for the City of Chico in 2002, 2006 and 2010. He has served on numerous committees and consortiums, including the Statewide Committee on HIV Prevention Planning, Glenn County HIV Health and Education Planning (HEP) Committee, as Regional Manager of the

Statewide Automated Welfare System (ISAWS) Consortium of Counties, as Regional Manager for ISAWS Welfare-To-Work System, and as Past President of the Board of Directors for the Community Collaborative for Youth. He earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master's degree in Public Administration from California State University, Chico.

Dale Jarvis is the founder of Dale Jarvis and Associates LLC, a Seattle-based consulting firm. Mr. Jarvis has extensive experience helping health plans and healthcare providers redesign their organizations to achieve better health for the populations they serve, better care for individuals, and reduced costs. He has contributed articles to publications and is a co-author of two books on healthcare system redesign. Mr. Jarvis has been a certified public accountant in the State of Washington and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants since 1982.

Currently Mr. Jarvis is focusing on healthcare reform to help ensure the needs of persons with mental health and substance use disorders are addressed as reform unfolds. This includes working with states, health plans, regional authorities, and at a national level to develop strategies that align the mental health and substance use safety net systems with general healthcare reform efforts.

Don Kingdon is currently the Director of Mental Health Policy for Harbage Consulting and a consultant for the County Behavioral Health Directors Association. Previously Dr. Kingdon was the Director of Shasta County Mental Health for five years, the Shasta County Mental Health Deputy Director of Clinical Services for four years, the Ventura County Mental Health Chief of Child and Adolescent Services for eight years, and the Clinical Director of the North Hollywood Dubnoff Center for Child Development for ten years. Dr. Kingdon has practiced in the mental health field since 1979, first receiving a Marriage Family Therapy License in 1979, a Ph.D. from International College in 1984, and his license as a Clinical Psychologist in 1989. Dr. Kingdon is very committed to assuring that the treatment of mental illness receives the attention and investment necessary to promote healing and recovery.

Robert E. Oakes, J.D., M.B.A. has over 20 years of experience in government and advocacy, currently as the Executive Director of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA), a non-profit advocacy association representing the county behavioral health programs in each of California's 58 counties. From 2004 to 2013 he served as the Vice President and General Counsel for the Association of Independent California Colleges (AICCU). From 1986 through 2010 he was an adjunct faculty member at McGeorge School of Law, where he taught Alternative Dispute Resolution and Legal Research and Writing, and team-taught other courses in advocacy and public agency law. He has also taught Business Law and Negotiation & Conflict Management courses at CSU-Sacramento. He served as the Regional Director of the Governor's San Francisco Bay Area Office, and has worked for the Santa Barbara Superior Court, the City and County of San Francisco, and U.S. Congressman Robert T. Matsui. Mr. Oakes earned his undergraduate degree from the University of the Pacific, his law degree from Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, and his MBA from CSU-Sacramento.

Thomas Renfree is the new Deputy Director of Substance Use Disorder Services for the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA) as of July 1st of 2014. As the statewide advocacy association representing the behavioral health directors from all of California's counties, CBHDA was formed from the recent merger of the California Mental Health Directors Association and the County Alcohol & Drug Program Administrators Association of California (CADPAAC). Prior to his current position, for almost fourteen years Tom worked for and represented CADPAAC, first as a legislative advocate, and from 2006 – 2014 as Executive Director of the association. In this role Tom was active in statewide efforts to increase local government funding and support for both adult and adolescent alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment services.

Adrienne Shilton is a Senior Associate for the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS). She has played a critical role in the development of the workforce California will need to transform its public behavioral health system and meet the needs of consumers long into the future. She provides technical assistance to counties as they plan and implement their Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) programs. She completed a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration at California State University in 2005.

Donna M. Wigand, LCSW, is a consultant to the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS). Prior to joining CIBHS as a consultant last year, Ms. Wigand served for 33 years in mental health services. She was employed for more than six years as a licensed clinical social worker in both San Diego private and public sectors prior to accepting the position of Deputy Director of Behavioral Health in Imperial County in 1986. In 1988, she became the Director of Mental Health and Substance Abuse for Fresno County. With a staff of more than 400 employees, she successfully steered the County's Mental Health Department through its implementation of managed care for inpatient mental health services for Medi-Cal recipients. She was also responsible for the department's conversion to the "Rehabilitation Option" and she planned, helped design, and implemented a new Crisis Intervention Unit. In 1996, she accepted the position of Mental Health Director for Contra Costa County. She managed the implementation of outpatient managed care, enabling the County's mental health system to become the Medi-Cal administrator for all mental health services in the County, including the private sector. She also led the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act, which was passed by the voters as Proposition 63 in 2004.