



Presenter Biographies
County Fiscal Leadership Institute
June 5 – 6, 2012

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.

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.

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.

Laree Kiely is the President of The Kiely Group (KGi), Organizational Effectiveness Consultant, and she has also served for 15 years on the faculty of the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California, where she taught in the graduate programs, Executive MBA, executive education, and facilitator and trainer programs. She has 25+ years' experience consulting, facilitating, and teaching organizational behavior in the US, Canada, Europe, South Africa, Australia, the Czech Republic, and the People's Republic of China.

Dr. Kiely is the recipient of several teaching awards including the USC Marshall School of Business "Golden Apple" Award for Teaching Excellence; the Distinguished Professor award from the EMBA Programs; and the "Teacher of the Year" Award from the USC Food Industry Management Program. Her eLearning Course called "Leading the Global Workforce" was awarded the Best eLearning Program by the International Distance Learning Association. She has also been awarded the "Most Significant Contribution by an Individual to eLearning" award; the overall "Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching"; and her course on "Negotiation: Plays, Ploys, and Pitfalls" was granted the Best eLearning Program for Corporate Development. The International Society for Performance Improvement also awarded Dr. Kiely the "Best Instructional Product or Intervention" recognition.

Prior to joining the faculty at USC, Dr. Kiely directed Technology Services at First Interstate Bank. She received her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Colorado and her Ph.D. from the University of Southern California.

Don Kingdon is the Deputy Director and Small Counties Liaison for the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA). 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.

Patricia Ryan is Executive Director of the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA), the statewide association representing local public mental health directors and services. She has held this position since June of 2001. Ms. Ryan oversees all of CMHDA's government relations and advocacy activities, including ongoing public policy issue identification and analysis, and advocacy with the Legislature and relevant state and federal agencies.

Prior to joining CMHDA, Ms. Ryan served for nine years as Vice President for Behavioral Health and Governance at the California Hospital Association (CHA). She also served as legislative assistant to two members of Congress -- Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA) and Rep. Richard Ottinger (D-NY). After leaving Capitol Hill, she worked as Assistant Director of Government Relations for the American Psychiatric Association, and then as Associate Director of Congressional Affairs for the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems.

Ms. Ryan holds a master's degree in public administration from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Donna M. Wigand, LCSW, is a consultant to the California Institute for Mental Health (CiMH). Prior to joining CiMH 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.

During her tenure in public mental health, Ms. Wigand was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA) in 1995 and Vice-President in 1996. She chaired several of the CMHDA committees including its Forensic Task Force, Legislative Committee, and the Financial Services Committee. She was also a member of the CMHDA Governing board.