



Presenter Biographies
County Financial Managers' Leadership Institute
November 6 – 7, 2012

William Arroyo, M.D. is a Regional Medical Director and the Medical Director of the Childrens System of Care of Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH). He is also a Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Keck USC School of Medicine. He represents LACDMH in program development and policy implementation efforts in mental health arena at county, state and national levels. He has, also, served as a liaison with LA Care among other health organizations and as a First 5 LA Commissioner. He has served on several state level advisory groups, commissions and boards including the California (Prison) Rehabilitation Oversight Board, the state Commission on Juvenile Justice, the statewide Healthy Families advisory group, CA Mental Health Directors Association, CalMHSA and various national mental health research and training centers. He was recently a member of SAMHSA's Task Force on Eliminating Mental Health Disparities. He is currently Principal Investigator of a federally funded community based project that serves birth to five year olds and their families. He has served as director of a community mental health clinic. He, also, works in a Probation camp as a treating child psychiatrist. He has been honored for his advocacy work in mental health by local, state and national organizations.

Molly Brassil is an Associate Director with the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA). Ms. Brassil has been a health care policy analyst and advocate since 2005 and has worked in the areas of legislative, administrative, and regulatory affairs. Before joining CMHDA in 2011, Ms. Brassil held the position of Deputy Director, Regulatory Affairs with the California Primary Care Association (CPCA), the trade association representing over 800 community clinics and health centers in California. Before entering the world of health policy, Ms. Brassil spent a number of years working directly with vulnerable populations as a direct service provider, including working in a Sacramento-based community clinic, a homeless youth outreach program and with the Sacramento County Department of Mental Health. Ms. Brassil has a B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara and received her Master of Social Work from Sacramento State University.

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.

Ana Estrada is currently the Director of Programs and Customer Relations for the Kiely Group. She has designed and delivered executive educational programs in the nonprofit and public sectors. She specializes in leadership and administration practices, with special emphases on customer service, organizational diversity, building networks, and strategic design. Her passion is to work with individuals, teams, organizations and communities to create equitable environments where all people have the opportunity to thrive. Prior to joining the Kiely Group, she designed and delivered leadership programs with the University of Southern California's (USC) School of Policy, Planning, and Development. Ana received her BA in Economics and Spanish from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and studied abroad in Mexico, Spain and Brazil; and received her Master of Public Administration degree from USC in 2008.

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.

Don Kingdon was appointed the Deputy Director and Small County Liaison for CMHDA in May 2006. 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.

Mary Kirlin is Associate Professor at California State University Sacramento where she teaches a variety of courses in the graduate program in Public Policy and Administration. She received her Master's and Doctorate from the University of Southern California, then spent 5 years on the faculty at Indiana University before returning to California. At Sac State, Mary now teaches introductory and thesis seminars as well as core courses in the management sequence. Her award winning teaching stems, in part, from her 15 years as a practitioner. Her students value her ability to link theory and practice in a usable fashion.

Thomas Renfree has been working for and representing the County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California (CADPAAC) for the past twelve years. He began his work in the field as a legislative advocate for CADPAAC, and in 2006 he was asked to serve as Executive Director of the Association. In this role Mr. Renfree has been active in statewide efforts to increase local government funding and support for both adult and adolescent alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment services. Mr. Renfree has a Bachelors Degree in history and political science from the University of California. Among his leadership goals are a commitment to work toward better public understanding of substance use disorder issues, and a commitment to help advance public support for substance use disorder programs, their clients, and the workforce that directly provide prevention and treatment services.

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.

Adrienne Shilton is the Program Director for Workforce, Education and Training (WET) for the California Institute for Mental Health (CiMH). She has played a critical role in the development of the workforce California will need to transform its public mental health system and meet the needs of consumers long into the future. She provides technical assistance to counties as they plan and implement their WET programs under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), and serves as a resource for counties in the implementation of the MHSA. 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 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.

Jairo Wilches was born in South America. He works at San Mateo County's Office of Consumer & Family Affairs and is the Chair of the California Mental Health & Spirituality Initiative. After struggling with personal and family behavioral health issues and going through a severe crisis Mr. Wilches was able to enter into recovery with the help of county mental health services. He has degrees in journalism and fine arts, practices energy healing, meditation and is a Biodanza (somatic practice) instructor in San Francisco.