

2024 SASP/DVP National Grantee Meeting & Training Speakers



Starlyn Bigrope

Starlyn Bigrope is the Cultural Manager at the East Mountain Resource Center. She works to reconnect her community to their culture and traditions through history and storytelling. She is an accomplished lecturer on Mescalero Apache history. A graduate of Northern Arizona University, Starlyn majored in Applied Indigenous Studies and Policy Administration. She lives in New Mexico with her husband and their two children. Starlyn finds inspiration in nature, horses, and being with her family.



Nathan Billy, M.Ed., LPC

Nathan Billy serves as the Director of Behavioral Health Programs for the National Indian Health Board. He is a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and has previously served his nation as both a Licensed Professional Counselor and the Deputy Director of Behavioral Health. His therapeutic and administrative experience includes a specific focus on substance use disorders; opioid prevention, treatment and recovery initiatives and harm reduction; suicide prevention, screening and assessment; and integrating behavioral healthcare in both clinical and Tribal law enforcement settings. His work currently focuses on expansion and recognition of Tribal sovereignty and culturally centered behavioral health policy and programs in Tribal communities.



Jami Bjorndahl

Jami Bjorndahl joined the IHS Division of Grants Management in March 2023, coming from the HHS Office for Civil Rights, Operations and Resources Division where she worked in human resources and special projects. Throughout her career, Jami worked in various offices including the United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) Office of the Director, Service Center Operations, and the Office of Citizenship, Grants Division where she managed a diverse grant portfolio as a program officer. She enjoys working with grants because of the direct impact they make within their communities. Prior to her time in the Federal government, she was an association meeting planner.



Marsha Brookins, M.Ed.

Marsha Brookins joined the Indian Health Service (IHS) as the Director of the Division of Grants Management in April 2022. As the Chief Grants Management Officer, Marsha is responsible for overseeing the administration of all financial assistance awards-grants and cooperative agreements, for more than 30 grant programs and approximately \$250 million in awards annually. With a distinguished career spanning 24 years in the federal government and 3 agencies, Marsha's expertise includes federal financial assistance award management, performance management and professional development for federal professionals. Marsha has served on the professional certification board for the Department of Homeland Security and was a contributor to the national Chief Financial Council's Financial Assistance Management Career Roadmap. Marsha has a bachelor's degree in business marketing and a master's in education with a concentration in curriculum instruction and assessment. She has used her background to provide training to a variety of organizations on topics including performance measures, monitoring grants and capacity building. Outside of her

professional commitments, Marsha actively volunteers with numerous organizations, focusing on uplifting individuals and families.



Deanna Carpitche, MS

Deanna Carpitche is a graduate of East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma with a master's degree in human resources: Rehabilitation Counseling. She has been employed with The Chickasaw Nation for 34 years, 23 years as a Behavioral Health counselor and for the past 11 years with the Suicide Prevention Program, currently serving as the Senior Suicide Prevention Coordinator. She provides training in several programs including ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), safeTALK, QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer), Talk Saves Lives, and Mental Health First Aid. Soon, she will add Youth Mental Health First Aid in Tribal Communities and Indigenous Peoples. Deanna is a Gold trainer

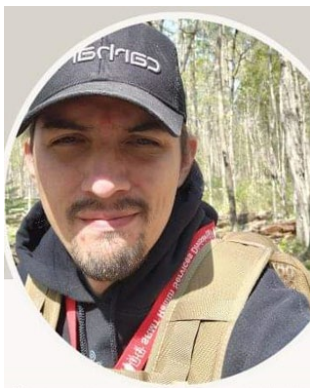
in ASIST and has taught over 100 safeTALK trainings. Deanna has been involved with the adoption of the Zero Suicide Initiative within the Chickasaw Nation, as the suicide prevention and awareness trainer.



Cameron Chase, MPH, M.Ed., MS

Cameron joined the Tunica Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana to serve as the Health Director in 2020. As Health Director, he has led the opening of the Tribe's first clinic, integrated behavioral health services and is developing interdepartmental wrap around community health services. Cameron has nearly 15 years of experience in public health and indigenous health, previously working in rural Guatemala creating rural health promotion networks with lay health workers and working for the United South and Eastern Tribes' Tribal Epidemiology Center serving over 30 Tribal Nations. Cameron earned a Master's in Public Health from Drexel University, a Master's in Education from Belmont University and a Master's in Biochemistry from the University of Washington. Cameron is passionate about health equity and enjoys learning and experiencing new cultures,

food and languages.



Jayson Cook

Shé:kon>Hello! I'm Tsiónkie Cook, Traditional Medicine Support Worker. I've been involved with language and culture for the majority of my upbringing. I was fortunate to be one of the original apprentices at the Á:se Tsi Tewá:ton Program, with Medicines and Healing being my primary focus. Since graduating the program, I was a teacher at Freedom School for 5 years providing culture as well as language. Teaching youth has always been my way of giving back to the community. Currently, I am the Traditional Medicine Support Worker with Mental Health. Assisting and hosting community workshops, and providing a traditional perspective on various situations. I enjoy learning and researching more about traditional

practices and the many stories we have to incorporate a mental health aspect of healing with it.



Beverly Cotton, DNP, RN

Dr. Beverly Cotton, an enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, is the Director of the Indian Health Service Nashville Area. As Area Director, Dr. Cotton is responsible for providing leadership in the administration of a comprehensive federal, tribal, and urban Indian health care system. She previously served as the acting Director of the IHS Office of Clinical and Preventive Services and the Director of the IHS Division of Behavioral Health. Before joining IHS, she worked as the primary care pediatric nurse practitioner and in several registered nurse roles, including the emergency department nurse manager for the

Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw, Mississippi. Beverly holds an associate degree in nursing from Meridian Community College, a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi, a master's degree in nursing from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and a doctor of nursing practice degree from the Vanderbilt University.



Andy Deal, MPH

Andy is from Tohatchi, New Mexico and is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and serves as the Health Promotion Disease Prevention Coordinator for Tsehootsooi Medical Center, FDIHB Inc. Mr. Deal received his Masters of Public Health degree from the University of Kansas Medical Center with an emphasis in Health Promotion/Health Education. His work experience in the tribal, state and federal sectors of health promotion has provided him great opportunities to work and help with various Indigenous populations to improve their health status and needs.



Shannon Dial, PhD, LMFT

Dr. Shannon Dial received her PhD in Marriage & Family Therapy from the Texas Tech University and after many years of clinical practice began work in 2014 at the Chickasaw Nation. Shannon serves as the Executive Officer of the Integrated Services Division in the Department of Family Services. This includes oversight of the tribe's large integrated behavioral health team, suicide prevention services, clinical informatics and oversight of three federal grants associated with these programs.



Pamela End of Horn, DSW, LICSW

Dr. Pamela End of Horn, National Suicide Prevention Consultant, Indian Health Service Headquarters, Rockville, Maryland. Pamela is responsible for oversight of the Suicide Prevention and Care Program. Her work focuses on policy development, program implementation and evaluation. Pamela holds a Doctorate Degree in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania and currently holds advanced practice licenses in North Dakota and Minnesota. Pamela was born and raised in Pine Ridge, South Dakota and is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.



Judith (Judy) Espinoza, MPH

Judy Espinoza is an Epidemiologist at the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (AASTEC). She has been building public health databases for almost 2 decades. She is dedicated to helping tribal communities achieve Data Sovereignty by helping them collect relevant and useful data securely but electronically.



LeClaire Gayton

LeClaire Gayton is the Program Director at East Mountain Resource Center. She started her position in 2022 and has since worked to revamp the program to ensure critical services are provided to the community of Mescalero. She is most fulfilled by facilitating classes, creating opportunities, and assisting her community with rebuilding their lives. She has worked in various leadership capacities with the Mescalero Apache Tribe and enjoys serving her community. LeClaire refreshes by being with her family, traveling, and attending concerts.



Donald Gooding

Donald Gooding is a Grants Management Specialist (GMS) with the Indian Health Service (IHS) with 20 years of federal grants administrative experience and a professional certification from Management Concepts. Donald enjoys providing customer service, grant assistance, and interpreting the federal laws to recipients and stakeholders. Donald is a lead for staff development and training and currently manages a portfolio of grants that include Healthy Lifestyles, Addressing Dementia in Indian Country, Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI), Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention (SPIP), Ending the HIV/HCV Epidemics in Indian Country, Dental Preventive Clinical Support, and

Urban Indian Health Programs. Donald enjoys spending time with family, reading history books and planning for the future life after retirement.



Alaina Hanks, LPC

Alaina Hanks is an enrolled tribal member of the White Earth Ojibwe and a licensed professional counselor. She currently serves as the Deputy Director of Child and Family Services at the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center. In her current role, she provides leadership for the Circles of Strength program and maintains a caseload for therapy. She has extensive training and experience in working with survivors of violence across the lifespan from children through elders. Her work is rooted in empowering people with their own sense of agency and healing.



Janine Hood, MS, MPH

Janine was born and raised on the Navajo Nation. She received her Master of Science degree in Health Education from the University of New Mexico and a Master of Public Health degree from New Mexico State University. She started her career in food sovereignty – improving the healthy produce within stores throughout the Navajo Nation, while working her way into health education. She is now serving as a Health Promotion Disease Prevention Specialist with the Fort Defiance Indian Hospital Board Inc. She provides her expertise to develop and analyze data for the HPDP department and strives to serve as a resource to the people within FDIHB Inc.



Lisa Ivey-McKinney, RN, BSN

Lisa F. Ivey-McKinney RN, BSN, FNE is the Forensic Nurse Coordinator for Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority (CIHA) on the Qualla Boundary in Cherokee, North Carolina. She has implemented the Forensic Nurse Program for CIHA and continues to develop and expand services for this program. Lisa has worked diligently to discover the need for forensic nurse services for her tribe, and surrounding areas and providing for those needs. Lisa has advanced education in Adult/Adolescent Sexual Assault care, Intimate Partner Violence, Human Trafficking, Child Maltreatment, Elder Maltreatment, and Trauma Informed Care. She continues to educate herself on these subjects so that she and her nurses can ensure that they are giving the best care available to their clients. Lisa has worked in Critical Care areas of nursing for the majority of her career. The last ten plus years has been in the Emergency Room setting, and Forensic Nursing.



Tamara James, Ph.D.

Dr. Tamara James is a Health Science Administrator for the Division of Behavioral Health. Dr. James leads national efforts to share knowledge and build capacity through the development and implementation of evidence/practice based and cultural-based practices in Indian Country. She received her Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences from the New York University School of Medicine and her postdoctoral training includes the National Institutes of Health Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. She is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



Casey Kasper-Welles, MSW

Casey Kasper-Welles (she/her) is an enrolled Citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. She began her career in victim services working in domestic violence shelters in the Detroit and Ann Arbor area, before moving back home to work for her Tribe's Department of Social Services, developing the Victim Services Program. Currently, she serves as the Victim Services Supervisor and is grateful to work with a passionate and dedicated group of individuals who provide a variety of programs for victims of crime. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Social Work, both from the University of Michigan, and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Affairs from Indiana University. In her free time, she enjoys working out, sewing, and reading.



Jacob Kaulaity, BS

Jacob Kaulaity (he/him/his), Born and Raised in Fort Defiance, AZ Lived and learned in Flagstaff, AZ. Mr. Kaulaity received his Bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University in Sociology and minor in Public Health. His professional career has been geared to working with youth and adolescents in settings of schools, community, sub-acute treatment centers, juvenile detention and youth shelters. He has been working in the field of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention since 2013 and brings that knowledge in to the Public Health and Health Promotion Department. Jacob appreciates and acknowledges his family values and teaches. Also enjoys working out, listening to music and catching rock concerts.



Matthew J Kozak, MS, MBA, MSL

Matthew was born and raised on Kodiak Island, Alaska as a 3rd generation Alaskan. After graduating from Kodiak High School, Matthew attended Tulane University in New Orleans where he received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology before returning to Kodiak. Matthew also holds Master's degrees in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Business Administration, and Organizational Leadership. In his career, Matthew has served as a volunteer tutor/mentor for inner city youth and charter school students in New Orleans, several different positions in Kodiak's sole public school district, acting as an academic subcontractor for the Native Village of Afognak in Kodiak, and spending nearly 15 years as a commercial salmon fisherman in Bristol Bay, Alaska. Matthew joined the Kodiak Area Native Association, a Tribal Health Organization serving the Kodiak region, in December 2015 as a Prevention Specialist working with the Indian Health Service Domestic Violence and Meth & Suicide Prevention Initiative programs. In June 2016, Matthew took over management of the KANA Prevention Department, where his efforts focused on community outreach and education regarding substance use, suicide, mental health, domestic violence, bullying, and other public health issues. Since then, Matthew has held several roles within KANA, all of which have involved prevention, community outreach/education, and behavioral health services, with a focus on enhancing and expanding services for Alaska Native Beneficiaries and the communities within the Kodiak region.



Jessica Larson, MPP

Jessica Larson (Tlingit) of the Organized Village of Kake is detailed as the Public Health Administrator focusing on youth programming within the IHS Division of Behavioral Health, Office of Clinical and Preventive Services. Prior to her current position, she has worked at the University of Maryland and USDA in research administration and support. Jessica joined IHS in 2021, and has an MPP from the University of Maryland.



Krystal Laughing, BA

Ms. Krystal Laughing is from Rock Springs, New Mexico. She is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. Krystal serves as a Behavioral Health Aide in the Health Promotion Disease Prevention program with Tsehootsooi Medical Center, FDIHB Inc. Krystal obtained her Bachelors in Psychology and Sociology from the University of New Mexico in 2022. Krystal aspires to continue to provide sustainable programs focused on suicide prevention and increasing mental health awareness that will benefit youth within the communities of the Fort Defiance Service Delivery Area.



Amber Letuli, RN

Amber Letuli is a Forensic Nurse Examiner in the Northwest of Alaska. Amber has been a RN since 1999 when she graduated with her BSN from Oregon Health Sciences University School of Nursing at Eastern Oregon State University in La Grande, Oregon. Amber has worked in many areas of nursing over the course of her career. She discovered Forensic Nursing in 2016 when a call went out for nurses willing to take sexual assault nurse training in her community. This training quickly led her from Kodiak Island to Kotzebue, Alaska. She works for Maniilaq Health Center which is part of Maniilaq Association, an Alaska Native Corporation. The Maniilaq service area covers an area in Northwest Alaska about the size of the

state of Indiana. There are 11 villages in this service area that have no roads connecting the villages, and all travel must be done by water or air. Amber is passionate about reaching out to the youth in her community and is grateful to be part of a team that travels to the villages to teach youth about Healthy Relationships, consent and sexual violence. In her free time, she loves to travel, spend time with her mini dachshund, Tom, and play with her three grandsons.



David Paschane, Ph.D.

Dr. David Paschane is a health policy and systems researcher serving as the National Data Coordinator for the behavioral health mission of the Office of Clinical and Preventive Services for the Indian Health Service. He is a member of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and a military veteran. Dr. Paschane leads analyses of IHS programs and policies, with an emphasis on local continuums of services for risk mitigation, especially through Tribal governments. With over 30 years of experience among relevant federal agencies, he has addressed a robust scope of human risk and health service responses, at various scales, and among diverse forms of health systems. His research and projects have earned him

notable recognitions, including the Health and Human Service Award of Excellence, Federal Leadership 50 Award, and the Computerworld Premier 100 Information Technology Leader Award. Dr. Paschane received his bachelors of science in psychology from the George Fox University, a Master of Science in organizational and behavioral research from the University of Alaska Anchorage, and a doctorate in human geography with a cognate in medical geography from the University of Washington.



Carrie Scott-Haney

Carrie Scott-Haney is a Coordinator of Violence Prevention and Response at the Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center with seven years of experience in advocating for victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Specializing in domestic violence, Carrie uses that experience to help her clients embody their legal rights, establish safety plans, and link them to community services and protective support for basic needs, such as medical and emergency shelter. Carrie works with survivors to achieve their own goals and empower them to move forward.



Kahomy Souksavath-Weston

As a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Mnicoujou Band of Lakota in Eagle Butte, S.D., and resident of Rapid City, SD, Kahomy has seen firsthand the disparities of mental health issues amongst the American Indian (AI) community. As a result of the local communities' disparities, she has utilized her combined lived experience, education, and previous work knowledge to help combat the challenges our American Indian youth face. Currently, Kahomy is the program manager for the Connecting With Our Youth (CWOY) program. CWOY provides mentorship to American Indians of all ages in the Black Hills area, who deal with suicidal ideations/thoughts and self-harming behavior by utilizing

cultural practices and ceremonies to promote healing and positive self-identity. CWOY provides one on one mentoring to relatives while assisting with resources, cultural activities and ceremony. Kahomy's interests include dancing at powwows, creating quillwork and beadwork, cooking and trying new recipes, and traveling with her family.



Tiana Spotted Thunder, BSW

Tiana is a member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe in Pine Ridge, SD and has her degree in social work. Tiana advocates for many social injustices, such as living with disabilities, LGBTQ+ rights, indigenous issues, language and culture revitalization, children's and women's rights, domestic violence, suicide awareness, and mental health awareness. Tiana has experienced many of the first-hand issues that are happening within Native Country that she uses her education and life experiences to assist in any way that she can. Tiana is currently the Program Coordinator for the Teca Kici Okijupi/ Connecting With Our Youth (CWOY) Program. CWOY provides mentorship to American Indians of all ages in the Black

Hills area, who deal with suicidal ideations/thoughts and self-harming behavior by utilizing cultural practices and ceremonies to promote healing and positive self-identity. CWOY provides one on one mentoring to relatives while assisting with resources, cultural activities and ceremony. Tiana's other passion is singing, she is a vocalist of many genres, but specializes in singing traditional Lakota and indigenous music. She travels throughout North America to powwows and round dances as a backup singer for drum groups, and she also does solo performances for various audiences.



Mariah Tsosie

Mariah Tsosie is a member of the Navajo Nation. She was born and raised in Saint Michaels, Arizona. Mariah is currently enrolled as a student with Dine' College, where she is pursuing her B.S. in Public Health. Her role as a Behavioral Health Aide within the Fort Defiance Service Delivery Area, is focusing on suicide and mental health prevention services that meet the needs of the youth in local communities and schools. Her passion involves working with youth and cultural revitalization efforts on traditional Navajo Weaving to students and community members. Mariah is driven to learn public health efforts based on mental health awareness and suicide prevention that will best serve her community.



Keaton Widow, BSW

A member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Keaton has been with the Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board since 2020, and is currently the Lead Navigator for both of the Connecting With Our Youth (CWOY) programs. CWOY provides mentorship to American Indians of all ages in the Black Hills area, who deal with suicidal ideations/thoughts and self-harming behavior by utilizing cultural practices and ceremonies to promote healing and positive self-identity. CWOY provides one on one mentoring to relatives while assisting with resources, cultural activities and ceremony. In his work duties, he has assisted in facilitating various groups from Historical Trauma and Unresolved Grief, Positive Indian Parenting,

Community Reinforcement and Family Training, Teen Support Circles, and Youth Mental Health First Aid. He enjoys time with his family, Jordan 1's, and is attempting a return to basketball hardwood. Currently, he is a student at the University of South Dakota in the Master of Social Work program.



Wendy Thomas, BS

Wendy Thomas is a graduate of Mid-America Christian University, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with a bachelor's degree in psychology. Wendy has been an employee of Chickasaw Nation for just under 5 years. She presently works within Family Services as a Prevention Coordinator. She provides training in safeTALK, ASIST, Mental Health First Aid, and soon, Youth Mental Health First Aid in Tribal Communities and Indigenous Peoples. Wendy also works at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center and Ardmore Health Clinic assisting with the Suicide Care Pathway. This is part of our Zero Suicide Initiative to follow patients who present to the facilities with thoughts of suicide.

Cassandra Allen, MHA

Cassandra Allen currently serves as the Lead for the Community Opioid Intervention Prevention Program (COIPP) for the Indian Health Service, Office of Clinical and Preventive Services, Division of Behavioral Health.

Indian Health Service, Division of Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health Initiatives Branch Staff



Amanda Bradley, MBA

Amanda Bradley is an enrolled tribal citizen of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and has worked in public health for almost 19 years. She is a Health System Specialist for the Indian Health Service, Office of Clinical and Preventive Services, Division of Behavioral Health. For the past six years, she has been serving as the Oklahoma City Area Project Officer for the Substance Abuse Suicide Prevention (SASP) and the Domestic Violence Prevention (DVP) programs. Previously, Amanda worked at the Oklahoma State Department of Health serving in different roles throughout her twelve-year tenure. She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and a Master of Business Administration from the Mid-America Christian University.



Elisa Bruns, MPA

Elisa was born in Anchorage, AK and attended the University of Washington in Seattle, WA where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology before returning to Anchorage. Elisa also holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Alaska Southeast. In her career, Elisa has worked with several Alaska Native organizations, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the Indian Health Service. Her work experience has centered around behavioral health programs and grant related work, with a focus on project management, process improvement and grant management. Since 2016, Elisa has served as the Indian Health Service Project Officer for Alaska Area SASP and DVP grant projects. She resides in Anchorage, AK with her family.



Elsie Joe, MPA

Elsie J. Joe, MPA, is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, and from Shiprock, New Mexico and is a Health System Specialist, Area Project Officer for the Indian Health Service, Office of Clinical and Preventive Services, Division of Behavioral Health. Elsie began her work for IHS in the Shiprock Northern Navajo Medical Center and has worked in the Billings Area Office. Ms. Joe obtained her Master of Public Administration with Emphasis in Health Care Management from the Grand Canyon University.



Michele Muir-Howard

Michele M. Howard is a member of the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She serves as a Staff Analyst for the Indian Health Service (IHS) Headquarters, Office of Clinical and Preventive Services, Division of Behavioral Health (DBH). She has been with DBH since 2001. Michele began her career with IHS in the Office of Program Integrity and Ethics Staff in 1999. She has also worked for the IHS Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs. Prior to her career with IHS, she worked for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Office of the Director. Michele is passionate about youth development and empowerment. She is a proud mother to 4 children; Xavier, Jordan, Gabriel and Matthew. Michele has volunteered in many youth events throughout the past 20 years. This includes in some cases being a coach, a team mom, a water-girl or simply a cheerleader on the sidelines supporting her children.



Audrey Solimon, MPH

Ms. Audrey Solimon currently serves as the Behavioral Health Initiatives Branch Chief. Ms. Solimon provides leadership and administration and implementation of behavioral health initiatives and grant programs and activities. Previously, Ms. Solimon served as the National Program Coordinator for the Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention (SASP) and Domestic Violence Prevention (DVP) programs and provided national program management, leadership on program development, and coordinated regional technical assistance efforts for each of the 12 IHS Areas from 2016 to 2023. Prior to that, Ms. Solimon was responsible for the management of an Office of Minority Health grant and a Centers for Diseases Control cooperative agreement with the National Indian Health Board as a Senior Public Health Advisor. Ms. Solimon also has experience with academic research regarding public health issues and access to health care within American Indian communities in New Mexico. Ms. Solimon is an enrolled Tribal member of the Pueblo of Laguna, New Mexico and holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, with a minor in Biology and a Master in Public Health from the University of New Mexico Department of Family & Community Medicine.



Sarah Tillman, MLS

Ms. Sarah Tillman currently serves as the Urban Area Project Officer. Ms. Tillman provides programmatic guidance and technical assistance to 23 Urban DVP, FHC, SAPTA and SPIP grantees. Previously, Ms. Tillman served on the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children in 2021, as the HHS federal detailee. In her role, she assisted the Commissioners with organizing and planning the virtual and in-person regional hearings and interviewing potential candidates for specific topic hearings. In February 2024, her services along with the other national federal detailees working with the Commissioners and staff aided the successful submission of the national report and letter of recommendations to the President of the United States. Prior to that, Ms. Tillman served as the California and Portland Area Project Officer for the DVP and SASP federal awardees and tribal grantees as well as serving as the Program Official leading the Cooperative Agreement for the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH). Before onboarding with DBH in 2017, Ms. Tillman has years of experience working with tribal health clinics and tribal programs advocating for quality patient care and the prevention services of domestic violence, suicide and substance abuse in tribal communities. Ms. Tillman is a proud enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma and holds an Associates of Arts Degree in Social Science from the Northern Oklahoma College, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Healthcare Administration from the Southwestern College, KS and a Master of Legal Studies Degree-Indigenous People's Law from the University of Oklahoma.



Jeremy Willie, BS

Jeremy M. Willie, Area Project Officer for the Indian Health Service, Office of Clinical and Preventive Services, Division of Behavioral Health, is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. Jeremy has worked in the Public Health field for the last 17 years, working with the Navajo Nation and with the Indian Health Service-Navajo Area before transitioning to IHS Headquarters. Mr. Willie graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Scott Zander, M.Ed.

Mr. Scott Zander, an enrolled member of the Aaniih (White Clay/Gros Ventre) tribe, was born and raised on the Fort Belknap Reservation located in northcentral Montana. He has a M.Ed in School Counseling from Montana State University and continues to be a school counselor at heart. Mr. Zander has been with the Division of Behavioral Health over five years as a Health System Specialist. He is currently serving as the Area Project Officer for the SASP/DVP grantees in the Bemidji, Billings and Portland IHS Areas. Mr. Zander's hobbies include going to the gym and long walks on the beaches in Montana.

Indian Health Service, Division of Behavioral Health Administrative Staff



Shelly Carter, BA

Shelly Carter is a member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Oklahoma with a major in political science and minors in psychology and Russian studies. She began her federal service during college with the Department of the Army, US Operational, Testing, and Evaluation Command in Alexandria, Virginia. She has also held positions at the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration in Washington, DC. Shelly currently serves as the Budget Coordinator for the Division of Behavioral Health in the Office of Clinical and Preventive Services at the Indian Health Service.



Alaina George, Ph.D.

Alaina George, Ph.D. is Diné, from Kirtland, NM. She is Tó'áhání, born for Hasht'i'ishnii. Her maternal grandfather is 'Ashjihíí and her paternal grandfather is Bit'ahnii. She has worked for the Telebehavioral Health Center of Excellence for over ten years.

Jonah Begay

Jonah Begay is an enrolled member of the Dine Nation. He is Kinlichinii, born for Tachiinii'. He is a graduate of The Interdisciplinary Film & Digital Media Program (IFDM) at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He has been with the TeleBehavioral Health Center of Excellence for nearly 10 years.