

California MHS Forensic Forum Speakers
April 26-27, 2016

Sheryl M. Beasley, Commissioner
Superior Court of Los Angeles County

Sheryl Beasley currently sits as a Los Angeles County Superior Court Commissioner where her primary assignment is to handle Criminal matters. In that capacity she presides over jury trials, she hears and rules on motions to suppress, Pitchess Motions, motions to continue and she resolves discovery disputes.

She uses decorum, fairness and efficiency to dispense justice with dignity, while keeping the calendar moving.

As an Executive Attorney Manager she served as an Assistant Public Defender, in charge of the Mental Health, Sexually Violent Predator and AOT Units. As a manager, she trained, taught, and supervised a 21 member unit which included 9 attorneys, 6 investigative staff and 6 clerical staff. She managed and supervised the staff which handled matters relating to General Probate Conservatorships, Limited Probate Conservatorships, LPS Conservatorships, Probate Accountings, LPS Accountings, Welfare & Institutions Code section 850 Petitions, Trusts, Special Needs Trusts, Guardianships, and Medical Petitions seeking extreme medical intervention such as sterilization, amputation, hysterectomy, End of Life decisions, and Family Law Restraining Orders.

When the Orange County Board of Supervisors implemented 30 day holds pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5270, and Assisted Outpatient Treatment (Laura's Law), she spearheaded her agency's interest as the stakeholder on behalf of our clients and other consumers. She remained at the forefront on these topics with the courts, Health Care Agency, County Counsel and the designated facilities.

She has worked closely with Probate Judges to discuss and create systems to handle various probate and mental health matters and she met quarterly with the assigned Probate Judge, Designated

County Facilities, Health Care Agency, County Counsel and Public Guardian to discuss global issues related to treatment plans, medication, staffing, court considerations, Riese Hearing Officers, and to review policies and procedures related to probate, mental health, involuntary holds, dementia and developmental disability matters.

Tiffani Andrade, Acting Assistant Deputy Director

Community Development and Housing
Department of Developmental Services



Tiffani Andrade has worked in the field of developmental disabilities for over 25 years. She began her career working directly with children and young adults with developmental disabilities, in group home settings. In 1994, she joined Inland Regional Center providing case management, especially with individuals with forensic backgrounds, in addition to resource development, primarily for Community Placement Plan development. In 1999, she began working with a national human services organization to lead multiple operations and quality assurance throughout California. More recently, in 2010, she spent time creating new residential choices for individuals at a local autism agency, while also expanding applied behavioral services in the community as well as with a non-public school. Tiffani joined the Department of Developmental Services in 2014 to assist with primarily carrying out recommendations made from the DS Task Force. In January of 2015, she began managing Community Development and Housing for the Department. She holds a B.S. in Sociology and Law, as well as an M.A. in Criminology.

Rachyll Dempsey, Psy. D., Founder
Psychological Assessment Inc.



Rachyll Dempsey, Psy.D., QME is a Forensic Neuropsychologist and Qualified Medical Evaluator who has worked with individuals of all ages using evidence based treatments and measures in clinics, schools, medical, and forensic settings for over a decade. She is a California licensed psychologist who completed her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Argosy University, an American Psychological Association (APA) fully accredited program. Dr.

Dempsey founded Psychological Assessment, Inc. in 2014 to offer quality psychological assessment on a larger scale. Psychological Assessment, Inc. is centrally located in Oakland, CA and employs experts in the areas of Competency Restoration, Forensic Evaluation and symptom validity testing, Neuropsychology including pediatric and geriatric, and Sex Offender Treatment.

Michelle Wysopal, Psy.D., Program Director

PAI Competency Restoration Program



Michelle Wysopal, Psy.D. is currently a Psychological Assistant for PAI, working as Program Director for the Competency Restoration Program, Program Director for the Shaping Success Program, and as Assistant Training Director. She graduated from Alliant International University in 2014 with a doctorate in Clinical-Forensic Psychology. Dr. Wysopal has specialized in working with sex offenders on parole and probation and is CASOMB certified. In addition, she has been working with individuals with developmental disabilities through the Competency Restoration Program and has been working with Venus Klinger, M.A., to develop evidence based Competency Restoration Manual for Developmentally Delayed Individuals. Dr. Wysopal's pursuit of forensic psychology began with an interest in and research about serial killers and questions about deviant behaviors in general and their origin.

Ruben Branson, Director

Congregate Connect, LLC

Ruben Branson is an honorably discharged veteran from the United States Navy. While in the United States Navy, nearly 24 years ago, he began working with persons with developmental disabilities (as a volunteer coach) training them for the Special Olympics. He continued working with persons with developmental disabilities while working as a Community Service Officer with the Los Angeles Community College Police Department from 1993 to 1995. In 1995, he began volunteering at Los Angeles Police Department's Southwest Division for nearly two years. There he was introduced to the forensic population within the Regional Center system. Also in 1995, he completed a nursing program for Licensed Vocational Nurses. He furthered his education by attaining an Associate degree in Liberal Studies and an undergraduate in Business.

His professional career includes employment within specialized residential facilities (with focus on diversion programming, restricted health conditions and the forensic population) as a Director, Skilled Nursing Facility as an Assistant Director of Nursing Service, Acute Care Psychiatric Nursing as a Staff Nurse, Los Angeles Community College District as an Instructional Assistant in the Learning Skills Department (serving students with developmental and/or mental health diagnosis) and Kedren Mental Health in the Public Health Nursing Division. Since 2000, he has functioned as an advocate for the developmentally disabled population. As an advocate, he has developed relationships with members of the local county Sheriff's Departments, City Police Agencies and local School/Campus Police Departments educating 'first responders' on how to appropriately interact with the developmentally disabled population during a crisis. In addition, he has developed relationships with the City and County District Attorney's Offices, Public Defender Offices – Courts Mental Health Liaisons and County Department of Probations; providing each entity with valuable information related to recent laws, crisis intervention and services which impacts persons with developmental disabilities and/or mental health issues. Currently, he functions as the Director of Congregate Connect Independent Living Skills and Supportive Living Skills services – A community based skills training program for persons with developmental disabilities.

Jesse Weller, Program Director
Crisis Response Project

Jesse Weller is the Program Director for Crisis Response Project of South Central Los Angeles. Prior to joining Crisis Response Project, Jesse was the Deputy Director of Mental Health Services for Riverside County Department of Mental Health, in which he oversaw county-wide programs, such as, Crisis Support Systems of Care, Office of the Public Guardian, and the Housing Administration. He also held a position as Assistant Director of several Intensive Case Management Programs for Forensic clients in San Mateo County. Jesse is a Doctoral Candidate at The Wright Institute in Berkeley and works closely with the San Francisco Police Department & Police Commission to evaluate the effectiveness of crisis training for police officers.

Richard Sikes, Director-Business Administration and Development
Mario Alvarez, Clinical Director-Facilities
MARS Group

MARS Group was developed from the combined experience of Mario Alvarez a Licensed Psychiatric Technician, Certified Sex Offender Treatment Specialist and Richard Sikes both with diverse professional backgrounds. Together, they operate five CPP specialized/forensic adult residential facilities and one community integration program for behaviorally challenged clients. Their experience base yields successful synergies in developing programs with tailored client care.

Richard Kendall, Program Director
Access Specialized Treatment Program

Richard Kendall graduated from California State University, Fresno with a B.A. in English/Philosophy. He is a devoted husband and father of three children. He is an active member of his local church, who enjoys giving back to his community through volunteering at various local charities. Mr. Kendall has been in the human services field for 30 years. In 1986, he began working in residential care, providing services to the mentally ill. In 1994, he began providing both residential and day program services to the developmentally disabled. In 2007, he started Access Specialized Treatment Program, serving developmentally disabled clients who have behavioral and forensic challenges. In addition to the specialized day program, Mr. Kendall provides a wide variety of services to this population, including transportation, vocational training and FMS. He is dedicated to supporting and helping the developmentally disabled in reaching their full potential as productive members of the community.

Sandra Regan, Forensic Specialist
Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB)



Sandra Regan is the Forensic Specialist for the Regional Center of the East Bay. RCEB serves 17,000 clients who are developmentally disabled in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. Sandra previously worked as a Deputy Probation Officer in San Mateo County and led the Domestic Violence Stalker Unit. She was also a US Federal Parole Officer and Mental Health Specialist for US Probation Department in Oakland. Sandra is a member of the CA State

Association of Regional Centers Forensics Team in Sacramento, the Multi-Disciplinary Forensics Team in Alameda & Contra Costa Counties, a POST certified CIT trainer for Oakland Police and Concord Police Departments, a member of the IDD Forensic Task Force, and the VP of SEIU 1021 for Regional Center of the East Bay.

Peggie Webb, Manager, Forensic and Behavioral Health Services
San Diego Regional Center (SDRC)



Peggie Webb, M.A. is the Manager of Forensic and Behavioral Health Services for the San Diego Regional Center. Peggie's team provides support to staff in the area of Forensic and/or Behavioral Health. This is an emerging specialty population of individuals with dual or triple diagnoses who have co-occurring mental health disorders, substance use disorders who may also be known to the Criminal Justice System. Peggie currently represents the Regional Center at several county sponsored committees including; the Adult/Older Adult Mental Health Council, the Mental Health Coalition, and the AB109 Taskforce. Prior to joining the Regional Center, Peggie served as the Executive Director of Mosaic Connections, Inc., a not for profit agency specializing in training and consultation in the field of developmental disabilities and mental health. Peggie's work has included research and statewide needs assessment related to persons with developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health disorders. Over the past 20 years, Peggie has consulted with the State Department of Developmental Disabilities, several other Regional Centers across the state, other states focused on services for persons with dual diagnosis and the Ministry of Children and Family Services in the Province of British Columbia, Canada. She served as the director of the Solutions Building Community Collaborative for 5 years. This was a pilot project co-sponsored by San Diego Regional Center and San Diego County Behavioral Health Services for persons dually diagnosed (DD-MI) and dually served, some with substance use related disorders and some frequently known to the criminal justice system. Peggie also served as a consultant to the current *Project Connect*; of Exodus Recovery, Inc.; a pilot project in San Diego providing criminal justice plans for persons with developmental disabilities, involved in the criminal justice system or at a high risk of becoming involved with this system, and is the current liaison to this project at the Regional Center. Peggie has recently become

the Project Director for the new Psychiatric Navigation Project, an MHS funded project targeting transition age youth who are dually diagnosed and high frequency/high intensity users of SD County Emergency Medical Services including in-patient psychiatric stays. Other work includes the development of new projects and initiatives, training staff in the field of social work, providing oversight and mentoring to other professionals in similar fields and numerous conference presentations on current work and research. Peggie is a member of the Forensic Statewide Collaborative currently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association for Dual Diagnosis (NADD).

Bruce W. Williams, Ph.D., FAAIDD, Behavioral Specialist
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC)



Dr. Williams is a behavioral psychologist who has worked with people with developmental disabilities since 1979. He is the Behavioral Specialist for the South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) and provides direct therapy services for people with disabilities throughout the Los Angeles area, consulting to Level 4 residential facilities and other sites. He has provided training on behavior therapy, intellectual disabilities, autism, and related topics in a wide variety of forums in the United States and overseas. From 1979 to 1990 he worked in Washington, D.C., serving as chief psychologist for the Mental Retardation Administration and the District's developmental center, as well as consulting for day programs, group homes, and St. Elizabeth's Hospital, a large mental hospital. His presentations at conferences have addressed treatment of severe self-injurious behavior, outcomes of behavior interventions, staff management, and forensic issues. He has been an expert witness, chaired human rights committees for several agencies, and for the past 19 years has chaired a forensic assessment team at SCLARC. He traveled to England to research offenders with intellectual disabilities under a grant from the Rosemary F. Dybwad International Trust Foundation. He is the chairperson of the Los Angeles County Multi-Agency Advisory Board (MAAB), which is comprised of representatives of the seven LA County regional centers and various law enforcement, court, and advocacy groups. Dr. Williams received his bachelor's degree in psychology at Stanford University and his doctorate at the University of

California at Santa Barbara. He has held office in the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for over 18 years and served for several years as chairperson of AAIDD Region II (California/Nevada). He has a brother who has a developmental disability.

Rodolfo Sanchez, Developmentally Disabled Field Coordinator (DDFSC)

LA County Probation Department

Deputy Rodolfo Sanchez began his career with the County of Los Angeles Probation Department in 2005, as a Deputy Probation Officer I assigned to the Residential Treatment Services Bureau at both the Challenger Memorial Youth Center (Intake Unit) and Camp William Mendenhall. In 2008, Deputy Sanchez promoted to Deputy Probation Officer II within the Field Services Bureau. His assignments at the Long Beach and Rio Hondo Area Offices included Regular Juvenile Supervision, Juvenile Sex Offenders and Adult Gang Unit. In March of 2015, Deputy Sanchez was assigned to Probation Headquarters as a Staff Assistant within Field Administration Services and has assisted in departmental training, policy development and various administrative functions. As of September 2015, Deputy Sanchez has served in the capacity of Developmentally Disabled Field Coordinator (DDFSC) for the Probation Department, acting as the liaison between the Department and Regional Centers for forensically involved youth in the Field.

Rosaura Chacon, RS Unit

LA County Probation Department

Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them. -Dalai Lama



This is the mantra that Rosaura Chacon has embraced since the beginning of her career with the Los Angeles County Probation Department. Ms. Chacon has dedicated her time to working with incarcerated youth focusing on strengths and facilitating the social development of young offenders. Ms. Chacon attended Georgetown University's McCourt school of Public Policy – Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

Currently Ms. Chacon is over unit RS that houses the youth that have or are suspected of having a disability. Since 2012 Ms. Chacon has been pivotal in ensuring staff she oversees assigned to unit RS participate on weekly trainings that include topics critical in supervising Regional Center clients.

Michael Elliot, Developmentally Disabled Placement Coordinator (DDPC)

LA County Probation Department



Born and raised in Los Angeles County. In 2005, I received a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminology from California State University Northridge (CSUN). Began working with probation youth in 2005 as an intern under “Operation Read” program at Camp Holton which lead me to pursue a career in the probation department.

Over 10 years experience as a Deputy Probation Officer for Los Angeles County, beginning in 2005 under Residential Treatment Services Bureau (RTSB). In 2008, I accepted a field position in Residential Based Services-Placement (RBS) as an On-Site officer working with youth on suitable placement orders.

In 2013 to current, I accepted position as the Developmentally Disabled Placement Coordinator (DDPC). It is the intent of the Department to provide Probation supervision to all probationers, including those with developmental disabilities (DD), in a manner that will optimize the level of supervision and utilization of programs and services provided to meet case plan needs. The (RBS) operation supervises probationers who are placed in group homes, foster homes, or placement with a relative or non-related extended family member. The (DDPC) oversees these functions in (RBS) for minors who have been identified (DD) and ensures compliance through quality assurance.

Jonathan Petrak, Deputy Public Defender

Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office

Jonathan Petrak is a deputy public defender in Los Angeles County. He has been employed as a deputy public defender for 26 years, with the last 6 years working in the Mental Health Courthouse-Dept. 95. Prior to becoming an attorney, he was a Los Angeles Police Officer for two years. In law school, he worked as a law clerk with the Office of the LA County District Attorney, and he was assigned to the Hardcore Gang Unit. As a law clerk, he also worked for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Fresno, assigned to Yosemite National Park.

Matthew Byrne, Deputy District Attorney

Los Angeles County District Attorney Office

Matthew Byrne received a BA from UCLA and a JD from UC Davis, King Hall, School of Law. He has been a Deputy District Attorney with the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office for more than 25 years, where he has worked a wide variety of assignments in twelve courthouses

covering the length and breadth of Los Angeles County. For the past eight years, he has been assigned to the Psychiatric Section, a specialized unit located at the Los Angeles County Superior Court's Mental Health Courthouse, a unique courthouse devoted to handling certain civil and criminal matters involving mentally ill and developmentally disabled individuals, including 6500 commitments and 1370.1 incompetent to stand trial cases.

Because of the high number of these cases being sent from all over Los Angeles County to the Mental Health Courthouse, Matt and the other attorneys assigned to this courthouse develop an expertise in this specialized and complex area of the law. For the past eight years, he has worked with representatives from all of the Los Angeles County Regional Centers and occasionally from some beyond Los Angeles County as well.

In addition, Matt has attended and participated in forensic mental health seminars in Monterey, Riverside, Sacramento and Anaheim. He is a much-sought-after lecturer on Competency to Stand Trial issues and has trained hundreds of deputy district attorneys throughout the state. He sits on various committees related to forensic mental health within Los Angeles County, including the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Criminal Justice Mental Health Project and the Los Angeles DMH's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Oversight and Accountability Committee.

Randy DeLeon, Mental Health Court Liaison

San Diego Regional Center (SDRC)

Randy DeLeon is the San Diego Regional Center's liaison to the mental health court in San Diego County. Randy is a graduate of San Diego State University. He started his career in social work for the County of Fresno's Adult Protective Services department. After 10 years with adult protective services he started as a social work counselor with the San Diego Regional Center. During the last 4 years at SDRC, Randy has been working with the mental health court and overseeing clients that are placed at Porterville Developmental Center and Fairview Developmental Center. Currently, Randy is working with the Mental Health Court Judge to streamline the process of clients ordered to complete competency training at Porterville Developmental Center.

ENRIGHT & OCHELTREE, LLP

Partners Judith Enright and Julie Ocheltree devote much of their legal practice to issues affecting people with developmental disabilities. Many of the twenty-one California regional centers serving this population make up much of their client base.

One of their core tenets is to honor and protect the relationship between the regional centers and their clients. They guide their clients to balance immediate concerns with long-term implications for both the consumer and the regional center.

With extensive experience in general litigation, conservatorship and mental health law, Judy and Julie are known for translating legalese into straight talk and direct action. One of their great joys is the lasting, deep relationships they have formed with their clients.

They represent clients in civil and criminal matters before the Office of Administrative Hearings, Juvenile Courts, Superior Courts, California Courts of Appeal, California Supreme Court, and in Federal District Court.

While advocating for their clients in court proceedings, Julie and Judy use every opportunity to educate the court and the parties about the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities and the parameters of the obligations of the regional centers.

Their regional center practice typically includes:

- ❖ Legal and regulatory compliance issues
- ❖ Analysis and application of new law
- ❖ Eligibility
- ❖ Service issues
- ❖ Business litigation
- ❖ Vendor issues
- ❖ Personal injury defense
- ❖ Board duties and responsibilities
- ❖ Regional center obligations and consumer rights in dependency and criminal proceedings
- ❖ Civil commitments
- ❖ Fair Hearings and vendor appeals

Judith Addison Enright

Judy is a recognized authority on the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act.

Before partnering with Julie Ocheltree in 1999, she opened the Law Offices of Judith A. Enright in 1995, doing the same work. Before that, she was a litigation partner at Burke, Williams & Sorensen, in charge of representing regional centers.

Prior to that, she was a shareholder at what became known as Pachter & Schaffer, co-leading their business litigation unit. She joined them after kicking-off her 30-year law career as a research attorney in the Appellate Department of the Los Angeles Superior Court.

She earned her B.A. from UCLA, her J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law and is admitted to the California Bar and the United States District Court (Central District).

Judy is a graduate of the first class of the Southwestern University SCALE Program, the only accredited two-year law school program in the U.S.

Her clients appreciate her quiet, studied approach to winning cases. She lives in the Santa Monica Mountains and is always studying something.

Julie A. Ocheltree

Julie is also a recognized authority on the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act.

Before partnering with Judy Enright in 1999, Julie practiced as an associate for Judy's predecessor firm. Before that, she was a litigation associate for two boutique firms.

She honed her skills as a litigator while still in law school, working as an extern for the Orange County District Attorney's Sexual Assault & Child Abuse Unit. She also served as an extern to the Presiding Justice of The California Court of Appeal, 4th Appellate District.

She earned her B.A. in Communications from California State University, with a minor in Spanish, and her J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law, graduating *cum laude*. She is admitted to the California State Bar and the United States District Court (Central District).

In high school, she was a volunteer with developmentally disabled students. In college, she worked as an admitting clerk in a hospital emergency room—which may well explain why she handles stressful situations so calmly and rationally.