

Community Schools Grant Initiative - Grantee Convening

New York State Museum, Albany, NY

May 14-15, 2015

Presenter Bios

Doug Bailey is an Educational Consultant with OMH with a long history in state level policy related to linking schools with health, mental health and other human services. He currently focuses on fostering partnerships between Mental Health and Schools, including the State's five (5) Promise Zones. He served as Coordinator of Policy and Intergovernmental Relations at the State Education Dept. until his retirement from SED in 2004. In that role he addressed policy for Special Education, integrated employment for individuals with disabilities and many of SED's relationships with NYS's child serving systems.

Maria Bove is an LCSW-R working at Parsons Child and Family Center as the Director of School-Based Behavioral Health Services. Ms. Bove has been a social worker since 1988, graduating from SUNY Albany. She has specialized in working with children and families in clinical and school settings. Ms. Bove has been trained in several evidenced based trauma treatment modalities, and feels strongly that children and families do best when they heal together. Ms. Bove is dedicated to bringing physical and mental health together as each has a direct effect on the other.

Deborah Benson is the Executive Director of the Council on Children and Families. The Council, administratively located within the Office of Children and Family Services, is authorized by statute to coordinate the state health, education and human services systems to provide more effective systems of care for children and families. Comprising the commissioners or directors of the 12 State education, health and human services agencies, the Council acts as a neutral forum for bringing together its members to increase the effectiveness and responsiveness of the state's services systems by promoting changes in state policy and negotiating improvements in service planning and delivery. For over 30 years, Ms. Benson has served in various positions at the Council prior to her current appointment, including as Acting Executive Director, Director of Policy, Planning and Research, Legislative Associate and Research Associate. Prior to her work at the Council, Ms. Benson was a social worker at a residential program for adolescent females and a rehabilitation counselor at an outpatient rehabilitation center for children and adolescents. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo and her Masters in the Studies of Behavioral Disabilities from the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Janice Chu-Zhu, Senior Director of National Capacity Building, National Center for Community Schools, The Children's Aid Society: Janice has been on staff at the Center since 2001. As Senior Director of National Capacity Building, she works with clients interested in adapting and developing community schools in their own communities. Her responsibilities include training, development and consultation on a variety of topics such as partnerships, program quality, parent involvement, organizational capacity, funding and sustainability. Janice's work is documented in her chapter in *Community Schools in Action: Lessons from a Decade of Practice*. Before joining the Center, she worked in the National Office of the Girl Scouts of the USA, initially as a Pluralism Strategies Consultant for their 319 affiliates and later as the Quality Recognition Manager, overseeing the annual award for best practices. As a licensed social worker, Janice has worked in foster care and the Family Court PINS Program. She also worked as a private consultant for corporations on issues of managing diversity. Janice holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Fordham University's Graduate School

of Social Service and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Psychology from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Kara Connelly is Assistant Director, Bureau of Dental Health, New York State Department of Health. Prior to joining the Department in 2002, Kara was an intern for U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson. Before her current role as Assistant Director in the Bureau of Dental Health, Kara worked as a Health Education Media Specialist and a training specialist administering the professional education component of emergency preparedness. Kara holds a bachelor's degree in Broadcasting and Communications from SUNY Oswego and Master of Science degree in Health Administration from Sage Graduate School.

Mary DeMasi is the Director of Policy, Planning and Research with the New York State Council on Children and Families. In this capacity, she is involved in a number of interagency planning and coordination efforts to improve services for children served by the education, child welfare, developmental disabilities, health, juvenile justice and mental health service systems. As the New York State KIDS COUNT Director, she oversees activities to increase access to child well-being data through the Kids' Wellbeing Information Clearinghouse (KWIC). Mary has examined the impact of anti-poverty programs on child poverty rates and conducted analyses to identify high need areas of the state for preschool children. Previously she served as a faculty member and Executive Committee Member of the NIMH-funded Center for the Study of Issues in Public Mental Health and principle investigator for a number of studies in mental health. A former teacher, she earned her doctorate from the State University of New York.

Mary Ellen Flynn is a Public Health Nutritionist at the NYS Department of Health, Division of Nutrition, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). She joined CACFP 2 years ago in the Obesity Prevention and Outreach Unit. She is the CACFP Outreach Nutritionist. Mary Ellen is a Registered Dietitian with over 20 years of experience in Nutrition and Healthcare.

Brett R. Harris, DrPH, is a Research Scientist at the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. Dr. Harris has worked extensively on the implementation of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in school-based health centers, sexually transmitted disease clinics, emergency departments, and various settings serving the military population. She has published and presented on her research on SBIRT in school-based health centers, serves on two advisory committees on adolescent SBIRT grants, and is a lead on an SBIRT for Youth Learning Community with the Institute for Research, Education, and Training in Addictions (IRETA).

Sarah Jonas, Senior Director of Regional Initiatives, National Center for Community Schools, The Children's Aid Society: Sarah joined the Children's Aid Society in 1998 as a community school director. She became Education Coordinator for Community Schools in 1999, Director of Education Services in 2004, and Director of Regional Initiatives for the National Center for Community Schools in 2009. Sarah provides consultation and professional development to community school initiatives in the Northeast and nationally, and presents at local and national conferences. Her areas of expertise include chronic absenteeism, out-of-school time, and alignment between support services and a school's core instructional program. Sarah led NCCS's work with the New York City Mayor's Task Force on Truancy, Chronic Absenteeism and School Engagement, through which she helped develop the highly successful Every Student, Every Day Campaign and provided support to hundreds of New York City public schools. Currently, Sarah manages NCCS's technical assistance for Mayor de Blasio's community schools initiative, which includes 45 new community schools. Sarah is a certified teacher who taught in public elementary schools in Los Angeles (as a charter member of Teach for America)

and New York City. She received her Bachelor's degree in English Literature from Yale University and her Ed.M. in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Alli Lidie: As Deputy Director, Alli leads NYSAN's quality and program capacity building work. Prior to joining NYSAN, she was a Quality Advisor at Dallas Afterschool where she coached numerous programs to help them improve overall quality. Alli planned and implemented programming with middle school students for three years at the Old Firehouse Teen Center in Virginia and served as a Drama Specialist and Team Leader at Camp McLean. Alli holds a Bachelor of Arts in Drama with a minor in Economics from the University of Virginia. She is one of the Riley Institute's 2014-2015 White-Riley-Peterson Policy Fellows.

Garra Lloyd-Lester works for the Suicide Prevention Center of New York State (SPCNY) as the Youth Suicide Prevention Specialist. His current job responsibilities include working with communities and child-serving systems to build capacity to help reduce youth suicides and attempts. This work is done through training, systems level planning and coalition building among other activities. Garra is a trainer for a number of programs including; ASIST, SafeTALK, Lifelines, Connect, QPR and others. Prior to working for SPC Garra worked for Cortland County Mental Health as the Youth Services Development Director and children's & adult Single Point Of Access (SPOA) coordinator for 9 years. Some of his other work in the Cortland community included; coordinating the annual county mental hygiene plan, overseeing the ERS program, coordinating a local CIT program for the community and City PD, suicide prevention initiatives, coordinating local System of Care planning, working with local peer led efforts to encourage wellness and recovery and developing and facilitating a local effort to address stigma.

Carri Manchester is an Associate in Educational Planning and Evaluation in the office of Student Support Services at the State Education Department (SED), where she coordinates the Community Schools Grant Initiative and the Child Abduction Prevention Education Program. Carri has previously worked on 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention, and the Dignity for All Students Act. Prior to joining SED, Carri worked in the field of museum education, most recently serving as Director of Education at Olana State Historic Site, the 19th century home, studio and estate of Hudson River School artist Frederic Edwin Church. Over the course of her six year tenure at Olana, she developed and managed educational and outreach programs, created interpretive material, managed training of docents, acted as community liaison, coordinated fund-raising campaigns and events, and worked to develop social media initiatives for education and marketing. Carri holds a B.A. in Anthropology and Art History from the State University of New York College at Potsdam and an M.A. in Museum Professions concentrating in Museum Education from Seton Hall University.

Mary McHugh, LCSW-R, is Director of Strategic Clinical Solutions, Division of Integrated Community Services for Children and Families, NYS Office of Mental Health. She provides clinical direction and strategic consultation to advance children's mental health and well-being. In this capacity, she supports the continuum of clinical services and family supports that reflects a developmental and resiliency framework and aligns with a public health approach. Prior to joining OMH in 2008, she worked for over 20 years providing outpatient mental health services in clinic and school settings. She graduated from Syracuse University with a Master's in Social Work and a Master's in Child and Family Studies.

Joseph Otter earned his Masters of Social Welfare from the University at Albany and is a Certified School Social Worker, Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and Certified School Building Leader (SBL) in New York State. He has worked at Capital Region BOCES providing professional development, technical assistance and consultation on topics including Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS),

classroom management, functional behavioral assessment, behavior intervention plans, data-based decision-making and school climate for more than 13 years. He currently serves as an Associate for the New York State PBIS Technical Assistance Support Center, an Office of Special Education (OSE) funded center supporting practitioners and schools in implementing PBIS and improving outcomes for Special Education students.

Jennifer Parmalee is the Director of School Based Initiatives for the Onondaga County Department of Children and Family Services. In her current position, Jennifer partners with school districts to integrate community supports and services into the school setting to address the social, economic, health and emotional/behavioral challenges that may get in the way of a child's success. Jennifer was instrumental in the development and implementation of Onondaga County's Promise Zone initiative, a promising evidence informed methodology. The initiative is a collaboration between the Syracuse City School District, Onondaga County, Say Yes to Education and community agencies including mental health clinics. The mission of the initiative is to match students' emotional/behavioral needs with effective interventions and keep students in class and ready to learn. The mission is achieved through increasing access to Mental Health Services in schools and the establishment of uniform school based problem solving procedures and process to ensure the right students get right interventions at the right time. Jennifer earned her undergraduate degree from Nazareth College of Rochester and her Masters in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs, Syracuse University.

Jane Quinn, Vice President for Community Schools. The Children's Aid Society & Director, National Center for Community Schools: Jane is a social worker and youth worker with over four decades of experience, including direct service with children and families, program development, fundraising, grantmaking, research and advocacy. She currently serves as the Vice President for Community Schools at The Children's Aid Society (CAs) in New York City, where she directs the National Center for Community Schools and contributes strategic and sustainability expertise to The Children's Aid Society's local community schools in New York City. Jane came to CAS from the Wallace-Reader's Digest Funds, where she served as Program Director for seven years. Prior to that, she directed a national study of community-based youth organizations for the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which resulted in publication of a book, entitled *A Matter of Time: Risk and Opportunity in the Non-school Hours*. Together with Joy Dryfoos, Jane co-edited a book entitled *Community Schools in Action: Lessons from a Decade of Practice*. In addition, she writes a regular column on youth development practice issues for *Youth Today*. Jane has a Master's in social work from the University of Chicago.

Susan Slade, RN, MS, MCHES, is the Director, Bureau of Child Health, New York State Department of Health. She is a Registered Nurse and Certified Health Education Specialist. Ms. Slade oversees the Bureau's programs that include the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program, the School Based Health Center Program, and the Infant Safe Sleep initiative.

Vanessa Threatte has spent more than 10 years working to pursue positive outcomes for the most vulnerable populations in New York State. She currently is the Executive Director of the NYS Cradle to Career Alliance, which was launched by Chancellor Nancy Zimpher of the State University of New York in February of 2013. The Alliance, powered by SUNY, is the first statewide intermediary of the StriveTogether National Network. The Alliance helps cradle-to-career partnerships adapt the StriveTogether framework and implement the StriveTogether Theory of Action. She is currently working with 9 communities across the State of New York establishing collective impact in education partnerships. Vanessa brings to this position her leadership and education experience helping to found a middle school for girls and her work as a classroom teacher, administrator, and principal, where she worked to ensure the quality of educational experiences for high-risk,

high-need urban populations. Additionally Vanessa brings her understanding of social, emotional, and mental health needs from her clinical training as an art therapist and work with geriatric and special needs adults. Vanessa earned a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, a master's degree in Art Therapy from The School of Art Institute of Chicago, and dual master's degrees in Literacy and Special Education from the University at Albany.