



JCC 2025 Spring Conference

Building healthier communities together

Presenter bios

Keynote speakers:

Geneva Craig, PhD, RN, is a graduate of Walden University's Doctoral Program with a focus in health services. She currently works her retirement job as an on-call Nurse Clinician in Asante Health System's Employee Health Clinic. Dr. Craig, also known as Dr. G., has held numerous positions in healthcare and retired from Providence Health System Alaska after thirty years of service.

Dr. Craig is known as a Civil Rights Activist from her participation in the 1960's era of The Civil Rights Movement, in Selma, Alabama, her birthplace. As a teenager, she was arrested multiple times for her participation in the peaceful marches that were held in Selma. She was a marcher in the voting rights marches, three attempts, Selma to Montgomery, to cross Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge. The first attempt, March 7, 1965, led by Late Congressman John Lewis, Bernard Lafayette, James Bevel and Hosea Williams, resulted in an infamous event known as "Bloody Sunday". The marchers were attacked, beaten and tear gassed by white state troopers, sheriff deputies and a deputized posse. Despite her fear she was determined to continue to work for societal change, and for human rights. Her story is archived in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. under "Voices of Civil Rights – Ordinary People. Extraordinary Stories."

More information about Dr. Geneva Craig can be found at aarp.org/or and BASE Oregon YouTube. BASE stands for Black Alliance Social Empowerment, www.baseoregon.org.

Emma Sandoe is the Director of Oregon's Medicaid program. Prior to joining Oregon, Sandoe was the Deputy Director of Medicaid Policy at North Carolina Medicaid and has previously served as the spokesperson for Medicaid and HealthCare.gov at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and worked on ACA coordination at the Department of Health and Human Services Budget Office. She received her PhD in Health Policy focusing on Medicaid from Harvard University, MPH at the George Washington University, and undergraduate degrees from University of California, San Diego.

Session presenter bios:

Asucena Aguilera QMHA-R (she/her/hers) began her journey at La Clinica Women's Health Center in January 2023. Her career as a Behavioral Health Support Specialist centers on supporting women seeking prenatal care, offering health coaching, mental health support, goal setting, and care coordination. She takes pride in interpreting for the integrated behavioral health team, ensuring



effective communication with Spanish-speaking individuals.

Living in a predominantly white community like Southern Oregon, Asucena understands the unique challenges faced by Spanish-speaking and immigrant communities. These communities often face not only language barriers when accessing healthcare, behavioral health support, but also difficulties navigating patient education and community resources, especially in family planning. Asucena's work emphasizes in supporting people overcome these obstacles and feel supported in their journey. Her passion lies in serving the community, walking alongside individuals as they navigate their personal challenges and healthcare. Prior to joining La Clinica, Asucena spent over a decade as a wildland firefighter, starting as an entry-level firefighter and advancing to become a crew boss, leading a hand crew of 20 individuals. Her dedication and hard work in this field shaped her commitment to supporting others, no matter the challenge.

Brenda Aguilera

Josh Aldrich is native of Southern Oregon. Josh has been with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office for nearly 25 years. He has held a number of positions within the Sheriff's Office, primarily serving in roles within the Jackson County Jail. Josh became the Jail Commander in 2018 and, in this position, has worked to provide increased access to community partners in an effort to bring much needed resources to individuals who find themselves spending time in the jail.

Danica Alexander, MLIS, grew up in Southern Oregon until college at Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf, in Rochester, New York. During her time there, she worked at several college libraries including Harvard University. She moved to various states, working her way westward, then worked for the National Archives in Seattle, and soon graduated with a Masters' in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University in 2017. Soon her life guided her back to Medford, Oregon where she became a member of Jackson Care Connect's Community Advisory Committee and the Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Advisory Committee, in the service of which she discovered the desperate need for an organization for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Southern Oregon, which led her to found and organize Deaf Activities of Southern Oregon (DASO), which is now sponsored by the Multicultural Association of Southern Oregon (MCASO). Being Deaf herself, she has a passion for teaching people about her culture and language and being a bridge between worlds. When she isn't working on DASO functions and needs, she enjoys reading, writing, spending time with her daughter, standard poodle, and other friends.

Vicky Armstrong, MBS, MA, is the Coordinator for Jackson County's new Deflection Program which connects individuals to treatment resources in lieu of engagement with the criminal justice system. She also serves on the Livability Team with the Medford Police Department, providing person-centered advocacy, resource support, and systems navigation to justice involved individuals. PP With a diverse educational background, Vicky has a bachelor's degree in computer information systems and business administration as well as a Master of Arts in Global Development and Justice, equipping her with a broad understanding of systemic challenges as well as community-driven solutions. Vicky has participated in international short-term humanitarian missions to provide medical services, anti-human



trafficking education and support, construction, employment development, and aid to refugees and incarcerated women. She spent time in Rwanda studying the causes and effects of the genocide, and engaging with individuals, communities, and NGOs working to recover and rebuild. PP Her professional experience spans pre-hospital emergency medicine, entrepreneurship, and advocacy for victims of domestic violence, working alongside law enforcement in both Detroit, MI, and Medford, OR. Additionally, she served as the Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinator in Jackson County. Vicky is passionate about bridging gaps in social services, advocating for marginalized individuals, and fostering collaboration between public safety and community resources.

Tiffany Atkinson, CRM II

Sabrina Ballew is the Manager for the Mercy Flights Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) department. She began her career at Mercy Flights in 2013 and joined MIH in 2015 as part of the start-up team, focusing on taking patient care to the patient. She is Community Paramedic and a Community Health Worker (CHW). Currently, she is the Chair of the Oregon MIH/CP Coalition.

Prior to her time at Mercy Flights, she was an Emergency Medical Technician with a local fire department, responding to 911 and other emergency calls. She has also served as an instructor in EMS at Rogue Community College.

Sabrina has served as the Secretary of the Jackson County Community Services Consortium for the past four years. Serving non-profit agencies in Jackson County.

She has a strong passion for sharing her knowledge in the area of MIH and CHW in the community and abroad.

She is married with five children, three dogs, and two cats. Her family resides in Medford and Georgia. You will most likely find her in her garden or exploring all of the beautiful scenery of Southern Oregon.

René Brandon has been serving as the Director of Southern Oregon Early Learning Hub (SOELS) for nine years. SOELS acts as a neutral convener and cross-sector system aligner, using data analysis and stakeholder input to identify gaps and opportunities. In partnership with other community leaders and members, SOELS invests funding into strategic efforts to increase regional capacity for strategies that are working well and to launch new initiatives that will improve outcomes for families with children 0-5.

Laura Bridges, LCSW, MPH

Stacy Brubaker, LCSW, CPH, received her bachelor's degree in social work from Utah State University, in 1988 and her Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Utah, in 2006. Stacy is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and has worked in the field of social work for the past 35 years. Stacy has spent the majority of her career working in the community mental health arena, working for fifteen years with the largest community mental health program in the State of Utah. She has a variety of experience with both adults and children and their families in a variety of different settings, both urban



and rural. Stacy is passionate about community work and the value we all bring to the table collectively.

For the past 12.5 years Stacy has worked for Jackson County. 9.5 of those years she served as the Division Manager for Jackson County Mental Health. For the last 3 years Stacy has been the Department Director for Jackson County Health and Human Services.

Stacy recently completed a Certificate in Public Health from Oregon State University, in an effort to expand her knowledge of the services that she is now responsible for throughout four divisions: Public Health, Mental Health, Administrative Services and Developmental Disabilities, in addition to the Animal Control Program for the County.

Dan Cano, JD

Stephanie Casteneda, PSS, has been the Southern Oregon peer service manager at Reclaiming Lives—Recovery Café El Camino Seguro for almost 2 years.

Saul Cervantes, BBHS, QMHA, is a Behavioral Health Support Specialist with over 14 years of experience in public schools. My primary focus is on helping students develop the skills to understand their emotions and how these emotions influence their behavior and relationships.

Using a variety of techniques, Saul guides students in recognizing their emotional triggers and learning to express their needs in healthy, constructive ways. By building strong connections with each student, I help them manage their emotions, communicate more effectively, and confidently overcome challenges.

Marcee Champion

Joseph Chick, MBA, MA, is the Outpatient Services Director at ColumbiaCare Services, a role he has held since July 2022. Prior to this, he was the Veteran Services Director (also at ColumbiaCare) for over a decade, overseeing the development and expansion of the division as well as the merger with Rogue Valley Veterans & Community Outreach (RVVCO), which brought an entire continuum of care for Veterans under one roof. Before joining CCS, Joseph worked in Licensed Residential Treatment and Supported Housing for over ten years in New York City, overseeing a large continuum of licensed congregate and scattered site housing for the SPMI population. Over the two decades his career spans, he has worked exclusively with individuals experiencing houselessness and/or those with serious and persistent mental illness. Joseph is driven to improve the accessibility and connectedness of community resources for those we serve and believes strongly in centering client experiences in everything we do. He is leaning into ways we can challenge the system overall, improve our ability to meet people where they are and walk alongside them throughout their recovery process. Simultaneously, he strives to cultivate a work environment that is supportive and safe for everyone, and one in which all employee voices are heard. He has an MBA in HealthCare Administration as well as a Masters Degree in Psychology, both from separate schools within the City University of New York system.



Sheila Clough accepted the role as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Mercy Flights, Inc. in June 2020. Headquartered in Medford, Oregon, Mercy Flights, Inc. is the first non-profit air medical transport organization in the United States and was established by George Milligan in 1949 to help transport medical patients from the Rogue Valley of Oregon to tertiary care facilities for care. Today, the organization continues to offer air medical transportation and also provides 911 emergency services for most of Jackson County as well as mobile integrated healthcare services to patients within the surrounding communities.

Prior to her current executive role, Sheila joined Asante Ashland Community Hospital as CEO on September 4, 2013 and lead the organization through a financial turnaround, integration with Asante Health system and rebuilding of the Birth Center (including development of a Midwifery program), Orthopedic program and a highly engaged team.

Ms. Clough earned a Masters of Business Administration for Healthcare Executives from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wis., and holds a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from the University of Minnesota.

Jocksana Corona was born in Puebla, Mexico, and her family migrated to the United States when she was four years old. Growing up as the only English speaker in her family instilled in her a deep understanding of the vulnerability people experience when they cannot communicate their needs and concerns. Jocksana dedicated 10 years to being a stay-at-home mom, during which she volunteered as a family advocate at Northwest Seasonal Workers Association & Talent Elementary School. These experiences, coupled with her personal journey, inspired her to pursue higher education.

After receiving DACA approval in 2014, she began her educational journey, earning an Associates in Human Services from Rogue Community College in 2018 and a Bachelors of Science in Psychology from Southern Oregon University in 2020. She furthered her expertise by obtaining a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counseling (CADC-II) certification in 2023. Additionally, she is a qualified Medical Interpreter and a Traditional Health Worker.

Jocksana's lived experience, including the challenges of growing up undocumented, has fueled her passion for helping others. The Almeda fire further motivated her to be a voice for the Latine community, who often lack representation and resources. Through her work as the Housing Justice & Advocacy Organizer with Coalición Fortaleza Jocksana is committed to continue to advocate and uplift the voices and needs of the Latine community.

Kane Cottle, PSS, CRM, has been working for The Pathfinder Network for over two years. He provides both drop in and comprehensive wrap around peer support to justice system impacted individuals in our community. Kane helps participants navigate resources in our community and break down barriers using his own lived experience with systems to help provide hope for others. Kane is a graduate of Recovery Opportunity Court (ROC) a local treatment court in Jackson County and runs a circle at Reclaiming Lives/Recovery Café. Kane has been clean for over five years and has dedicated himself to helping people in our community that are justice impacted and/or struggling with addiction find a new



way to live. This last year Kane has taken on facilitating our Jackson County Peer Support Community of Practice (COP). The COP meets quarterly and has been a great opportunity for peers at all agencies at all levels to have a space to meet, network, build community, gather more information about local resources and find ways we can work in collaboration for the betterment of our community.

Erin Cue, LCSW, is a Clinical Supervisor at Jackson County Mental Health. She has been a member of the JCMH youth team for 14 years, specializing in serving young children and clinical oversight to youth programs. Erin is a Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) Regional Trainer Candidate, provides standard PCIT, PCIT-Toddlers and PCIT-Trauma Directed Interaction. She is a member of the PCIT Steering Committee working alongside Oregon Health Authority to support PCIT throughout the state of Oregon. Erin is also trained in Child-Parent Psychotherapy. Erin has also completed her graduate certificate in Infant Toddler Mental Health to further support young children and their families.

Lona Dillard, MS, LCSW, is a licensed clinical social worker in the state of Oregon. She received her undergraduate degree from Southern Oregon University and her Master of Social Work from Portland State University. Lona has a rich variety of experiences across populations and settings and is passionate about supporting mental health and wellness in children and families.

Melanie Doshier currently serves as Chief Human Services Officer for ACCESS and has worked for ACCESS in different capacities for over 5 years. She oversees state, federal and foundational funded programs that are designed to support housing stabilization. Melanie has 18 years of experience in Human Resources Leadership and program development fields. She believes people best serve people and is passionate about the impact these programs make in Jackson County.

Ami Dwyer is a transgender youth attending Ashland High School in my sophomore year. My interests are drama podcasts and writing music or stories. I really appreciate staying connected and having spaces that are trying to move communities forward. I just finished the youth internship at the Rogue Action Center and want to continue being involved.

Ryan Ebersberger, LCSW, helps youth and families navigate challenges related to stress, trauma, and emotional well-being. Using evidence-based techniques and a compassionate approach, he provides a safe space for clients to grow and heal. Ryan specializes in helping clients regulate their emotions and build resilience, empowering them to thrive at home, school, and in life. When he's not working, Ryan enjoys exploring the outdoors with his family. You might find him river rafting, mountain biking, hiking, or surfing waves on the Oregon coast.

Jason Elzy is the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Jackson County. Jason has more than twenty-five years' experience in the housing industry with a background in affordable-rental housing operation and development. Over the past two decades Jason and the Housing Authority team have worked to grow the agency into the largest developer, owner/operator of multifamily-residential housing in Southern Oregon; having produced more than \$500 million in housing development activity. Jason is particularly interested in fostering collaborations with local partners to provide housing opportunities combined with outreach and wrap-around services for the most vulnerable families and residents of Rogue Valley. Jason presently serves on multiple boards and committees including Jackson



Care Connect, Access, Jackson County Continuum of Care, and President of Housing Authorities of Oregon.

Sam Engel

Grace Enriquez serves as the Wellness Program Manager at La with The Learning Well Department and has nearly two decades of experience in healthcare. Originally from Southern California and raised in Mexico, she brings a unique cultural perspective to her work. A strong advocate for holistic care, Grace combines her personal wellness journey, professional experience, and cultural background to design and coordinate health education groups focused on prevention and disease management, integrating practices that nurture the mind, body, and spirit. Driven by her mission to support others in achieving their best health, she remains dedicated to creating accessible and impactful wellness programs that empower individuals to make lasting, positive changes in their lives, regardless of their background or challenges.

Teina Faaeteete has worked 13+ years in Talent Acquisition for a healthcare system, building my experience in career counseling, mentoring, and identifying top talent. I've spent the last 3 years engaged in mentoring, tutoring, and life coaching Pacific Islander youth/young adults ranging from elementary to university level. My passion is to prepare youth of marginalized groups for their future by continuing in the work I do and utilizing my professional skills and experience to elevate them.

Kourtnei Faber, EPDH is a dedicated Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist and the Dental Prevention Program Director for the Children's Preventative Oral Health Outreach Program which serves the Eagle Point, Butte Falls, and Prospect school districts. She earned her degree from Carrington College in Mesa, Arizona, in 2012 and has since returned to her roots in Southern Oregon to contribute to her community.

In her professional role, Kourtnei is passionate about promoting dental health among children, focusing on preventative care to ensure young students maintain healthy and happy smiles. Her commitment to dental hygiene education and her leadership in the outreach program underscores her dedication to improving oral health outcomes in her community.

Outside of her career, Kourtnei enjoys an active lifestyle with her family. She loves spending quality time with her husband, Brandon, and their three children, Jack, Finley, and Maks. She's an avid camper who cherishes sunny days, looks forward to beach-related activities, and values every moment spent with her family.

Apaau Fuataga (she/her/hers) was born in Samoa, raised in Hawaii, and has been in southern Oregon since 2009. Before working at Samoa Pacific Development Corporation (SPDC), Apaau had an extensive twelve years work background in health care, serving the most vulnerable community. She has helped with the development of training programs for in-home care and has more than five years of experience as a Care Manager. Apaau is very involved with her community and is most passionate about connecting individuals and families through resources and education to address their needs. She believes in



culturally specific solutions to address barriers for marginalized communities to thrive.

Jaerod “Jay” Garcia, currently goes to RCC as a Cybersecurity major. His hobbies include creative writing, video games, and hanging out with my friends. Currently, Jay is involved with Maslow Project's Youth Advisory Council, or YAC. He finds that one of the most important things is outreach and finding and helping those who can't help themselves. Whether that be navigating the regular bureaucracy or being there to listen to a rough time.

Raia Herges is a community health advocate and organizer dedicated to advancing health equity and inclusion. As a Community Engagement Advocate at SO Health-E, I lead initiatives that support Spanish-speaking and LGBTQIA+ communities in Southern Oregon, including organizing monthly community meetings and planning Medford Pride! My work focuses on increasing access to resources, building community partnerships, and creating inclusive spaces where everyone feels valued, heard, and supported.

Sylvia Hernandez is a senior at North Medford High School. She participated in speech and debate, as well as tennis, which helped build teamwork and collaboration skills. Speech and debate, along with YLab—the group she’s currently involved with—have fueled her passion for politics and community building. Sylvia has a strong interest in politics and how government and government-funded agencies function to support the community. She believes youth engagement in the broader system is essential—not only for understanding how to access resources but also for helping others do the same. By increasing awareness and participation, we can work together to build a better community through government programs.

Larry Howell, CRM II, PSS, has been working for the HIV alliance for 8+ years. He is also a professor at Umpqua Community College. He teaches the Human Services 110, Certified Recovery Mentor certification course. He is also one of the two peers who worked on the OR HOPE project that created PRIME +. He is extremely passionate about my work.

Melissa Isavoran, MS, CPHQ, is the Vice President of Network and Policy for Foodsmart. As a driver for change, Melissa has a long history of navigating complex regulations, enhancing value-based care, and implementing quality interventions through integrated care and social support services. Melissa began her career in Medicaid policy in Arizona and over the last 25 years has developed a policy education institute, implemented health care policy and programs, worked with a former Arizona Governor to develop state-level efficiencies, managed federal compliance and quality activities, and oversaw a Medicaid managed care plan in Oregon. Melissa has a Masters in Legal Studies from Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Conner College of Law and a Bachelors in Global Business also from Arizona State University. She currently resides in Salem, Oregon.

Elizabeth Jaffee-Stafford, LMFT, IMH-E, is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who works as part of the Family Nurturing Center’s Senior Management team to ensure that FNC’s services for families are relational, trauma-informed, strength-based, and effective. Beth provides support to FNC and our community at multiple levels (organization, program, provider). Beth assumed responsibility for



oversight of the therapeutic delivery of services at the Family Nurturing Center in 2011. Over the course of her career, Beth has worked to support families and children in a variety of ways, including direct service as a mental health provider, home visitor, and childcare provider; and indirect service as a program director and program coordinator in family-serving organizations. Beth continues to be deeply moved and inspired by the incredibly beautiful work of the Family Nurturing Center staff and the healing journeys of the amazing children and families we serve.

Sonya Kauffman Smith began her professional career with Providence over twenty-five years ago working as an in-patient dietitian. She then transitioned to the Providence Diabetes Education department working as a Diabetes Care and Education Specialist and eventually taking on the role of clinical supervisor. After several years in this department, Sonya received her MPH and joined the Providence Community Health team as a Program Manager. Sonya's portfolio keeps her focused-on food/nutrition through managing the Gateway Food Pantry embedded within two primary care clinics. Sonya also manages the Providence/Medical Teams International Mobile Dental Clinic Program and co-manages the Unite Us integration in the Providence Oregon region. In addition to program management, Sonya supports Providence's community health investment efforts in the Southern Oregon service area.

Kathy Keese, Unete

Zulma Larios serves as La Clinica's Field Based Care Manager supporting the various field-based programs including La Clinica at OHRA, mobile health clinic, community resource specialists, and health outreach specialists. Zulma has a deep understanding of the systemic barriers and social determinants of health that many of our most vulnerable populations face when trying to access health care and other essential resources in our community. Zulma finds joy in serving others and volunteers her time to local nonprofits that support our underserved and often forgotten communities including Rebuilding Together Rogue Valley, CASA, and Ritmo Alegre. She is a member of the 2040 Vision Implementation Committee for the city of Medford, a member of the Phoenix/Talent School District EDI Committee and while no longer in a formal role, a community health worker at heart. Zulma has a passion for equity work and work that enhances the quality of life for members of her community.

Katie Lechuga

Laura Lindley-Gutierrez, JD, LLM, has been a lawyer licensed in California and Oregon for 20 years, and a practicing immigration attorney for nearly 10. She and her law partner Nadezhda Andreeva, focus their energy, empathy and expertise on client-centered, trauma-informed representation of vulnerable immigrants- specifically refugees, survivors of violence, and children.

Leticia Longoria-Navarro is the Executive Director of The Pathfinder Network. She is a skilled and passionate leader, practitioner, developer, trainer, evaluator and advocate working in and around the criminal justice system and other systems in service of our community. Leticia is known for her enthusiastic and engaging leadership style and has a vision for lifelong learning and guiding individuals and organizations through change. She is a supporter and advocate for peer support approaches and



peer run programs and agencies.

Danielle Mancuso, MS, is a dedicated community builder with a passion for creating connection and inspiring change. Danielle transitioned from a 20-year career in higher education to pursue a career in mental health counseling. Danielle currently serves as the Gender Affirming Care Coordinator at La Clínica, where they lead efforts to improve care for transgender and gender-expansive patients. In addition, they maintain a private counseling practice, providing holistic support to clients. For the past eight years, Danielle has facilitated The Lantern, a community storytelling series.

Megan Marx, MPA, NCPRSS, is the Director of Integrated Care for ORTC, LLC. ORTC, LLC provides medication assisted treatment and counseling services for individuals who experience opioid use disorders in Oregon and Washington. In her role in the organization Ms. Marx provides administrative leadership for the provision of integrated care and services and identifies organizational growth opportunities in line with the organization's business plan. Currently she oversees the implementation of outpatient services at each clinic to serve clients who experience co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. Previously she was the Associate Director for Behavioral Health Care Accreditation at the Joint Commission. Ms. Marx also worked as the controlled substance administrator in Colorado, where she provided regulatory oversight to the state's opioid treatment and medically managed detoxification programs. She received her master's degree in public administration from the University of Colorado at Denver in 1997, is a Nationally Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist through NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals and is a trained Death Doula through the International End of Life Doula Association (INELDA), 2024.

Michelle McCormick, CHW, YRN brings over 20 years of experience in the medical field with a significant focus on behavioral health and functional wellness. Throughout her career, she has shown a dedication to case management, community health work, resource navigation, and empowering patients as experts in their own care through motivational interviewing and empathic inquiry. Michelle is pursuing her bachelor's degree in human services and holds an NCPT (Nationally Certified Psychiatric Technician) and a CHW (Community Health Worker) certificate. Michelle believes in the power of patient-centered care and her ability to connect with patients on a personal level. She was drawn to Rogue Community Health (RCH) because its mission, values, and core concepts resonated with her values, especially the commitment to health equity and serving vulnerable and underserved populations. She appreciates RCH's team-based approach and the recognition of social determinants of health as crucial to achieving optimal health and wellness. Michelle believes in the importance of community-oriented work, advocating for education, capacity building, and establishing meaningful relationships within the community. Her philosophy is that by addressing care and services "upstream," we can foster more successful and thriving communities. Outside of her professional life, Michelle is an avid reader who enjoys exploring various genres and sharing discussions with friends. She has a profound love for the arts, frequently attending theater showcases and plays. Family is central to Michelle's life, and she cherishes watching movies and enjoying game nights with her loved ones.

Micayla McNeely is originally from Fresno, California, and has always had a deep passion for food and culinary exploration. Growing up in an agricultural environment, they were fortunate to be surrounded



by a wide variety of fresh, locally sourced ingredients, which inspired their love for cooking and experimenting with diverse cuisines. After relocating to Oregon in 2021, Micayla immediately felt a connection with the area and knew it was where they truly belonged.

Outside of their professional life, she enjoys a variety of hobbies including fishing, hiking, digital art, and playing the ukulele. They are an avid outdoor enthusiast and have a strong desire to travel the world, visiting national parks, historical sites, and immersing themselves in new and culturally rich culinary experiences.

Since moving to Oregon, Micayla has been an active member of ACCESS, where they are passionate about helping those in need, particularly through food distribution programs for the community. Their childhood dreams of becoming a Pixar artist or a humanitarian have come to fruition through their work with ACCESS, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to both the local community and their broader aspirations of making a positive impact in the world.

Stephanie Mendenhall grew up in Ashland and is a third generation native southern Oregonian. She started working for Jackson County Health and Human Services in 1995 as an Administrative Assistant to the Commission on Children and Families, Juvenile Justice Advisory Council and Meth Task Force. In 2015, Stephanie took on the role of Service Integration Manager, overseeing front-line staff and many projects during her 22-year career at HHS. At the onset of the Coordinated Care Organization implementation, contracts for mental health services were diverted away from Jackson County and Stephanie, along with 230 other employees, was laid off. This provided the opportunity to reflect on her life and career and the motivation to start the local nonprofit Reclaiming Lives.

Stephanie and her family began reaching out to young people struggling with addiction back in 2015, she began helping people access treatment, find recovery and change their lives. It has become her life's mission to help those who are hurting and to shine a light on how relationships and connection are at the core of healing and recovery. This is what led her to the Recovery Café Network, a nationwide organization based in Seattle. After visiting, Stephanie and Tony decided Medford needed a Recovery Café, and they opened the Main Street location in 2019. Recovery Café is a safe place for those experiencing substance use disorder to find hope and healing.

Stephanie Miller is a graduate of Southern Oregon University, where she earned a degree in Human Communications with a minor in Psychology. Her journey into working with seniors began with her own Elderly Companion Care business, which she successfully ran for eight years before transitioning to Hearts With A Mission. There, she became a driving force behind the creation of the innovative Hearts For Seniors program, now in its third year. Since its launch in January 2023, the program has transformed the lives of over 200 isolated seniors, offering much-needed companionship and support.

Stephanie's dedication to improving the lives of seniors in her community is matched only by her commitment to her family and local youth sports. She lives in Medford, Oregon with her husband of 16 years and their two children, with whom she is heavily involved in local athletics. Stephanie coaches volleyball through the Rogue Valley Volleyball Club and serves as Vice President of the North Medford



Youth Wrestling Club, showing her unwavering dedication to empowering the next generation. Through both her professional and volunteer work, Stephanie continues to find innovative ways to make a lasting difference in the lives of those around her.

Jeremy Molck, MA, LPC, QMHP, started with ColumbiaCare in October of 2023 as a program manager. I moved into the clinical manager role around October of 2024. I am an LPC who is licensed in Oregon and Mississippi. I am originally from Mississippi and relocated to Oregon in November of 2023. While in Mississippi, my primary focus was addictions and working with drug court clients.

Cheyenne Nichols

Matt Northrop grew up in Medford and graduated from South Medford High School. After graduation, he attended Oregon State University, studying Cultural Anthropology. Matt became a volunteer at a youth drop-in center so that he could better apply his education to the real social issues faced by at-risk and marginalized youth. After his time spent volunteering, Matt felt compelled to continue his work with this population. For the last 18 years, he has been working with youth social service agencies in Medford and Eugene. He is happy to be back in southern Oregon now, contributing to the community he grew up in and serving as a Maslow Project Program Director.

Erin Norton is a registered nurse and lactation consultant who has spent her career working in Maternal Child Health. She spent most of the last decade working on community-based initiatives to improve pregnancy outcomes and lower the infant mortality rate in northeast Indiana. As a relatively new Oregonian, she is now supporting three nurse home visiting programs at Jackson County Health and Human Services.

Heather Olivier is the Deputy Director at FACT Oregon, where she oversees day-to-day operations, strategic initiatives, and program development. With a strong background in special education and a master's degree in education, Heather specializes in enhancing support for families of children with disabilities through training, collaboration, and advocacy. Her work focuses on building community partnerships and increasing family engagement to improve educational outcomes.

Brandon Orr, QMHA-R, was born in Reno, Nevada in 1979, and moved to Oregon in 1992. Brandon has a colorful past with addiction and criminality and his lived experience has given him the opportunity to give back to his community for the last 6 and a half years. Brandon began his career at Boulder Care as a peer in 2019 while volunteering at Reclaiming Lives. He was hired as the Recovery Cafe Manager in 2020 and was recently promoted to Peer Support Manager where he does ground-breaking work alongside community partners going into the jail and transition center to build relationships and provide resources to help mend a community that is in dire need.

Brandon and his wife Veronica recently bought their first home. They love to adventure and if he had it his way, he would play golf every day of the year!

Angela Parker, RN, BSN, has been with La Clinica for 6 years. Previously, she has worked in Labor and



Delivery, Med/Surg, Post Partum, Surgery, PACU, homecare, and Pediatrics. She brings this experience to the School Based clinics at 3 elementary schools in Central Point. The schools she works at are a Non-Provider model which offers unique challenges and the opportunity to use Telehealth technology. In her spare time she enjoys family time and working on their mini-farm.

Kiki Parker-Rose Kiki has over 30 years of experience in public safety, beginning her career with community corrections in Klamath County. She has held a variety of leadership roles, including Director of Community Corrections for both Lake and Klamath Counties, before retiring in 2018. Now serving as Director of Jackson County Community Justice, Kiki fosters innovative partnerships to connect individuals under supervision—and their families—with essential services. She is passionate about developing a strong, supported workforce and is committed to investing in employees and building future leaders. Kiki values collaboration and believes that meaningful, lasting success is achieved together.

Rebecca Pearson

Rebecca Pietila was born and raised in the Rogue Valley. Rebecca has dedicated the last two decades to grassroots organizing and advocacy in our community. As Co-Executive Director of the Rogue Action Center, she's passionate about empowering local voices and building a stronger, more engaged and resilient community. In her free time you can find her at home gardening or reading and hanging out with her pets. She lives in rural Jackson county with her partner, cat, and dogs.

Cadhla Rae is a youth who participated in recovery services with a history of incarceration. Cadhla uses this lived experience to support youth in her role with the Medford Drop Council of Youth Advisor (CYA).

Fabiola Reyes is the Lead Teacher of Early Childhood Education for Listo Family Literacy Program. She has been working in the education field for 25 years. She has a CDA (Child Development Associate), an Education Certificate and an associate's degree in early childhood education. Fabiola believe that to work in education, you must truly love what you do because we are the first steppingstone to our children's future.

Ceci Robe, LCSW, is an experienced healthcare leaders with 25 years of expertise in School-Based Health Centers. As a School Health Program Director for Rogue Community Health (RCH) Ceci have worked with two distict FQHC, ensuring high-quality medical services for students and communities.

Holding a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from UFPE and ESL from Brigham Young University combines business acumen with healthcare management. Additionally, Ceci holds a Green Belt Lean Certification for Healthcare, demonstrating a strong commitment to efficiency and quality improvement in medical services.

With ESL Certification, Ceci brings a unique perspective to healthcare accessibility, advocating for diverse population and fostering inclusive health initiatives. Ceci's dedication to School-Based Health



Center program has helped bridge gaps in medical services, ensuring students receive the care they need to succeed.

Anne-Marie Rodriguez moved to Southern Oregon in the summer of 2024 and joined Rogue Food Unites shortly after. Anne-Marie focuses on leading the program efforts to serve the Rogue Valley and Oregon at large. Her work is centered around allyship in order to thoughtfully provide services to the community.

Before joining Rogue Food Unites Anne-Marie worked in San Francisco as a clinical research coordinator. In this role she managed dementia clinical trials, focused on social determinants of health, at UCSF's Memory & Aging Center. This work combined her passions for neuroscience and community-based research and expanded her over 6 years of healthcare administration experience. She received her B.S. in Biology & Neuroscience and B.A. in Spanish Literature from the University of Portland.

Stephanie Roland, CFRE, is Executive Director at Ashland Community Health Foundation, an organization she has been with for almost two decades. As a seasoned fundraising professional, she works one-on-one with donors who want to make a transformational difference in the health and well-being of our community. Her work at ACHF includes oversight of several endowments, including the CareOregon Endowment for Health Care Workforce Training, to support the development, training, and strengthening of the behavioral health work force throughout the Rogue Valley.

Stephanie is a native Oregonian who moved to Ashland in 1997 to attend Southern Oregon University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degrees in both Business Administration and Psychology.

Rosa Ruggiero, PMHNP is a board certified psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner and serves as the Psychiatric Services Direct at La Clinica.

She came to La Clinica in 2019 after working at the Veterans Affairs Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics in White City as the Chief of Psychiatry. She previously worked as a psychiatric nurse practitioner and program co-director at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, and completed a psychiatry nurse practitioner residency and a public and community psychiatry fellowship at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland. She is board certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Andromeda Safotu

Robin Sansing, MSW, LCSW, is the Director of the new Behavioral Health Initiative (BHI) at Southern Oregon University (SOU). With more than 20 years in higher education with a passion for community wellness and a strong commitment to addressing behavioral health challenges, Robin brings extensive experience in program development, community collaboration, and teaching and training. She is dedicated to fostering partnerships that strengthen the behavioral health landscape in the Rogue Valley and beyond. Under her leadership, BHI focuses on empowering students, supporting professionals, and



driving systemic change through innovative education and advocacy. In addition to her work at SOU, Robin is also an executive coach, organizational development consultant, and a psychotherapist in private practice.

Mike Savara, LCSW, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, currently serving as the Special Initiatives Advisor at Oregon Housing and Community Services. He has spent his career doing direct services with people experiencing homelessness and those living with behavioral health disorders. Mike has worked as a housing specialist, case manager, shelter manager and clinician with high intensity behavioral health services. His background is in harm reduction-based addictions counseling, permanent supportive housing and street outreach. He has worked at Oregon Housing and Community Services since 2020 in various roles.

Patricia Schein graduated in 1988 from the University of New York with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She became certified as a women's health nurse practitioner in 1988. Patricia completed her master's degree in nursing at California State University and became certified as a family nurse practitioner in 1998. She is the medical director of La Clinica's outreach programs. She sees patients on the Mobile Health Center and at our clinic located at OHRA. Patricia is bilingual in Spanish and English and is married with three children. Patricia enjoys caring for women and children.

Lauren Schmidt, ATR, LPC, completed her Masters of Counseling, with a focus on Art Therapy, in 2008. After working with youth and families in direct service and clinical supervisor roles for 10+ years, Lauren joined CareOregon's Behavioral Health Department as a lead support in cofacilitating codesign processes in advancement of a first-in-nation equity-based initiative. Recently moving into a cross-regional Portfolio Manager role as part of the Social Health department, Lauren strives to bring innovative supports to the provider networks who are lifting up the Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) benefit.

Patrick Secrest BS, CADIC II, is the Program Director at ORTC, LLC's Medford Treatment Center Mr. Secrest supervises and maintains all clinic operations. He has worked for ORTC, LLC since 2017, beginning his career as a counselor at Grants Pass Treatment Center. He became the Clinical Supervisor at Grants Pass Treatment Center in 2020. As Program Director at MTC he is also the liaison to the community on behalf of the treatment program, conducting outreach and building community supports. Patrick was recognized as ORTC's Employee of the Year in 2022.

Paul Sequeira, BS, THW, QMHA, has been a resident of the Rogue Valley since 2002 and brings over 20 years of experience in the mental health field to his role as Supportive Services Director at Rogue Retreat. Paul joined Rogue Retreat in 2022 as a Case Manager, where his dedication to individualized care and recovery quickly made an impact. In 2024, he was promoted to Director, where he continues to lead with a focus on positivity and the power of human connection.

An avid snowboarder and mountain biker, Paul finds balance and inspiration in the outdoors. He integrates his love of sports into his work, sharing the grounding and empowering principles of these activities with both his team and the guests he serves. His recovery philosophy emphasizes meeting



individuals where they are and supporting them in achieving their personal goals.

Paul's passion for fostering growth and resilience in others drives his commitment to helping Rogue Retreat guests rebuild their lives and thrive.

Ashley Silver, CADC-1, QMHA-1, was born and raised in Southern Oregon, I have a deep appreciation for the region's natural beauty and cherish spending time outdoors with my family. As a mother of multiple teenagers and an engaged community member, I'm driven by a genuine passion for nurturing the next generation.

With 6 years of experience at La Clinica's School-Based Health Centers, I've seen firsthand the gaps in support, resources, and awareness around youth substance use and prevention. This led me to pursue a professional path dedicated to addressing these issues. After completing the On-Pace program with On-Track, I collaborated with my School-Based Leadership Team to create a harm reduction and brief intervention program.

I piloted the program in the 2023-2024 school year at three high schools across the valley. Due to its success, I'm excited to share that, in the 2024-2025 school year, we've expanded the program to seven middle and high schools across Jackson County.

Rachel Smith, MPH, is a Senior Program Manager in Population Health with Providence Health & Services. In her role, she aids in the design, implementation, and management of social drivers of health strategies. Her work centers around partnerships with community-based agencies and initiatives to bridge clinical and community settings. Her passion for reducing disparities among underserved groups has included working with immigrants, refugees, American Indian tribes, formerly incarcerated, and unhoused communities.

Ben Spence, CRM II, is the Community Justice Program Manager at the Addictions Recovery Center (ARC). A person in long-term recovery from substance use, Ben has been with ARC for six years, dedicating his career to improving outcomes for individuals involved in the criminal justice system. He oversees the delivery of evidence-based practices across multiple levels of the justice system, ensuring individuals receive the support they need to achieve lasting recovery. Ben spent four years growing the Community Response Team and played a key role in establishing the "Treatment Starts Now" approach, emphasizing immediate access to care. His work focuses on bridging gaps between criminal justice and behavioral health services to foster sustainable recovery and public safety.

Gaelen Thurow

Katie Vander Laan, QMHP, (she/her/hers) is a Professional Counselor Associate currently working with La Clinica's integrated behavioral health team. With a strong foundation in providing compassionate care to individuals with multiple marginalized identities, Katie brings a wealth of experience from previous roles in crisis environments including suicide prevention at a call center and direct service care to women and children escaping violence at an emergency shelter. Katie joined La Clinica's Women's



Health and Birch Grove Health Centers in 2023 as a behavioral health clinician, focusing on offering culturally informed care that support patients with diverse and intersecting needs. Through her work, she is committed to fostering mental wellbeing in underserved populations and advocating for equitable, inclusive practices in the field of behavioral and mental healthcare. Katie has been honored to be part of La Clinica's EDI council since the beginning of this year.

Lili Vargas is the Community Resource Specialist for Project Youth Plus. She has been with Project Youth+ for 2 years, but over 10 years as a parent with her children who been part of College Dreams. Lili has aligned her professional goals with the passion she has for her community and provides individualized support to students and parents by connecting them with wrap around services in health, food, economic, etc. Lili is a Certified Community Health Worker, OHP Assister and has created partnerships with local agencies to better serve her families and the community.

Lucy Wilson is an active volunteer in her community who believes in the power of community engagement. Lucy is a strong leader, serving as Grants Pass High School Badminton President, Cross Country teammate, and Project Youth+ Student Advisory Board member.

Sommer Wolcott, MS, LPC, CRC

Whitney Yeust, CADC I, CPS, QMHA II, CGAC-R, worked as certified prevention specialist for a long time and has been in behavioral health to assist with grant writing and reporting for all grants. She resides in Sutherlin.

Camry Young, MHT, originally from Utah, Camry received her Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Southern Oregon University in 2022. She currently works as a mental health therapist at one of La Clinica's school-based health centers at an elementary school in Medford. Camry is passionate about working with this population and primarily uses a child-centered play therapy approach.

Katrin Yount, LPC, MAC, CADC III, CPHQ Katrin has worked in Oregon's non-profit behavioral health system for the last 13 years. With a strong foundation in mental health counseling, she has dedicated her career to guiding individuals towards recovery and wellness. Katrin holds a MS in Mental Health Counseling from Southern Oregon University and is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Master Addictions Counselor, and Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor III. In addition to directing clinical operations at OnTrack Rogue Valley, Katrin is a program surveyor for CARF and enjoys teaching graduate mental health counseling classes at Southern Oregon University.

Sadie Wade, BS, is the Social Health Specialist supporting Jackson Care Connect with the Health-Related Social Needs benefit. She has served in state and local public health departments and is passionate about improving the health and resilience of communities in Jackson County.