

Presenter Bios

Tarassa Froberg: Tarassa Froberg, MSW, is the current Dependency Training Specialist for the Administrative Office of the Court's (AOC's) Family & Youth Justice Programs (FYJP). She has extensive experience working in child welfare. She worked at the Department of Children Youth and Families for 27 years prior to working at AOC. This included 19 years at a local office working directly with families and as a supervisor. She has worked as the statewide program manager for Child and Family Welfare Services, Family Voluntary Services, CPS-Investigation and CPS-FAR. In addition, she has managed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and the Children's Justice Act Grant, facilitated Citizen Review Panels, written federal reports, analyzed legislation, managed program improvement plans, trained system partners and much more. Tarassa holds a bachelor's degree in psychology for Washington State University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Washington. She is passionate about maintaining the safety and wellbeing of children and the preservation of families through system improvement.

Emalie Huriaux: Emalie Huriaux, MPH, is a Program Manager in the Washington State Department of Health's Office of Infectious Disease overseeing the Integrated Infectious Disease Testing, Viral Hepatitis Prevention, and Drug User Health Programs. In this role she is responsible for efforts to implement integrated HIV, viral hepatitis, and STI testing; hepatitis B and C prevention efforts and coordination of Hep C Free WA (the state HCV elimination initiative); and efforts to support and promote syringe service programs and overdose education and naloxone distribution programs in Washington State. Prior to this role, Ms. Huriaux was responsible for Project Inform's U.S. and California-based hepatitis C and harm reduction policy activities, chaired the California Hepatitis Alliance, served as the Steering Committee chair of the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable, and served as co-chair of the Fair Pricing Coalition; worked for seven years at the San Francisco Department of Public Health, where she served as the Viral Hepatitis & Integration Coordinator; and spent many years as a health educator and frontline worker serving communities through harm reduction programs, including via street outreach, syringe access, overdose prevention and response, and HIV prevention and sexual health programs. In the early-to-mid 2000s, she managed the Drug Overdose Prevention & Education Project in San Francisco, one of the first programs in the United States conducting government-funded community naloxone distribution and overdose education for people who use drugs.

Katie Eilers: Katie Eilers, MPH, MSN, RN, is currently serving as Washington State's Title V Maternal and Child Health Director and Director of the Office of Family and Community Health Improvement at the Washington State Department of Health, where her work focuses largely on creating and implementing programs and policies that benefit pregnant people, children, teens and families. Katie's background is in the non-profit and governmental public health sectors where she has blended her passion for public health and nursing to serve communities both domestically and overseas. Katie is a Robert Wood Johnson Breakthrough Leader in Nursing, has and continues to serve on several non-profit boards, and is an adjunct faculty at Saint Martin's University.

Jessia Blose: Jessica Blose (her), LMHC, SUDP, NCC, CCMHC currently serves as the State Opioid Treatment Authority for Washington State. Jessica also holds a concurrent

position as the Manager of Behavioral Health Clinical Support for the Washington State Health Care Authority. Prior to her current roles, Jessica had also worked as a regulator of licensing and certification for mental health and substance use disorder behavioral health agencies within Washington State. Before coming to Washington State, Jessica Blose spent her direct service counseling career in New York State holding a variety of clinical and administrative positions in integrated, co-occurring behavioral health treatment agencies that also operated both opioid treatment programs and office based opioid treatment programs. Jessica maintains active licensure as a mental health and substance use counselor in Washington State. Jessica also holds both an MS in Mental Health Counseling; and an EdM in School Counseling from the SUNY University at Buffalo, in New York State.

Lauren Kula: Lauren Kula (she/her), MSW, SUDP currently serves as the Opioid Treatment Quality Improvement Program Manager in the State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) office at the Washington State Health Care Authority. The SOTA team helps to oversee the Opioid Treatment Programs in WA State. Lauren's role is to support the growth of overall quality for the programs with patients and program staff. Prior to HCA, Lauren worked as a substance use disorder counselor and program manager for youth and young adult SUD outpatient programming.