

Words to Deeds - Get Connected! Opportunities to Advance Statewide Best Practices in Crisis Response

Level

Intermediate

CE

CPA/BBS/BRN/CJER

Bio

Ashley Mills, MS

Ashley is a research supervisor with California's Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and has been staff to the Commission for over eight years. She currently leads a team implementing the Commission's prevention and early intervention initiative, and she is lead author of Striving for Zero: California's Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention, 2020-2025. Ashley also was the staff lead on the Commission's policy research project on criminal justice and mental health, which was completed in December 2017. Prior to joining the Commission, Ashley held positions with the California Department of Justice and the California Governor's Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy.

Jonathan Porteus, PhD

Jonathan is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Addictionologist, who has extensive experience in health and behavioral health integration, evidence-based practice and clinical research and evaluation. He also has extensive experience in program development, including outpatient, residential and systems-level interventions (e.g., creation of trauma-informed initial assessment for NY State Office of Mental Health psychiatric facilities). His clinical practice includes addiction, compulsive behavior and suicidal crisis, trauma practice, integrated behavioral health, primary care and behavioral health treatment across all levels care. Jonathan has conducted training in Motivational Interviewing, behavioral interventions around compulsive behavior, PTSD, complex trauma, chronic medical conditions and co-occurring disorders treatment and built the Outpatient Drug Treatment system for the Republic of Vietnam. Jonathan has taught graduate school for over a decade, was an Adjunct Professor at Adelphi University, tenured Professor at CSU Sacramento and has variously lectured and presented to organizations and professional groups.

Stephanie Welch, MSW

Stephanie is the Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health for the California Health and Human Services (CalHHS) Agency. In this role she acts as a senior advisor to the Secretary of CalHHS and other state departments on behavioral health policy. In addition, the Deputy Secretary builds bridges across various government sectors and with stakeholders from diverse perspectives. Prior to this role, Stephanie was the Executive Officer of the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) based in the Office of the Secretary at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Stephanie has over two decades of experience in mental health policy, program administration, evaluation and advocacy at both the state and county

level, working at organizations such as the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) and the California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies (CBHA). Stephanie approaches her work improving systems by examining the impact to individuals and communities, always striving for better-quality experiences and outcomes. Stephanie holds an MSW from the University of Southern California and a BA in Sociology from the University of California, Davis.

Narrative

Experts in crisis services will present current initiatives to improve awareness, use and outcomes of mental health crisis response. In addition to highlighting elements of an ideal system, experts will present an overview of California's current crisis response system, including information on the Crisis Now Model, the transition of 988 as the new three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the implication of this transition for law enforcement and the current 911 system. Presentations will also highlight opportunities for justice system diversion, healthcare integration and coordinated community-based response, including multi-disciplinary mobile response services, as promising crisis prevention strategies.

Learning Objectives

Describe the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Crisis Centers and their role in the crisis care continuum.

Identify three barriers to coordinating crisis services.

Discuss two actions needed to respond to different types of mental health crises.