

## **Words to Deeds: Strengthening Connections to Build a Successful Crisis Continuum of Care System**

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### **Level**

Intermediate

### **Track**

Words to Deeds

### **CE**

CPA/BBS/CJER

### **Room**

Cardiff/Carlsbad

### **Bio**

**Hallie Fader-Towe, JD**, has spent over ten years providing training and technical assistance focused on policymaking at the intersection of criminal justice and behavioral health. She is currently a Deputy Division Director for the Behavioral Health team at the Council of State Governments Justice Center, a national non-profit. Hallie leads the Behavioral Health Division's team focused on interbranch state policy approaches, including projects focused on state-local collaboration, housing, diversion, crisis response, competency to stand trial and sustainability.

**Erika Cristo** serves as the policy lead for all crisis continuum of care initiatives and proposals and behavioral health policy related to improving care for children and youth, particularly for children in the child welfare system. Erika also serves as DHCS' behavioral health lead on efforts to improve the quality of behavioral health data reporting and use and provides leadership support for the Community Services and Licensing & Certification Divisions related to departmental priorities in these areas. Erika has over 20 years of State of California experience in the behavioral health field. She began her state career as an Associate Mental Health Specialist with the former Department of Mental Health, and has worked in various analyst, specialist, and management capacities since then. Prior to her ADD role, Erika was the Branch Chief overseeing the Program Policy, Legislation, and Regulations Branch in the DHCS Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Services Division, where she was responsible for overseeing teams analyzing, developing, and implementing policy related to the Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery systems, including DHCS' CalAIM Behavioral Health initiatives. Erika earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of California, Davis, solidifying her desire to pursue a career in public service.

**Budge Currier, MS**, has served with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) since 2011. In his current role, Budge is responsible for the statewide public safety radio systems and

microwave network that support state agencies, the 9-1-1 system that supports 438 Public Safety Answering Points with over 27 million 9-1-1 calls per year, the 9-8-8 system and the Emergency Communications Division. Budge also serves as the California Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC). Budge has over 30 years of communication's experience and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from University of Michigan and a Masters degree in Electrical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Budge is a member of NENA, APCO, and NCSWIC. Budge also serves as the President of the National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators (NASNA).

### **Narrative**

Experts in aspects of Crisis Continuum of Care services will present current initiatives to improve awareness, use and outcomes of mental health crisis response, including updates on California's implementation of Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis Services. In addition to highlighting elements of an ideal system, experts will present an overview of current crisis response systems from California and other states, 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. The presentation also will highlight opportunities for justice system diversion, healthcare integration and coordinated community-based response, including available funding and resources.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Describe three elements of the Crisis Care Continuum and importance of integration for successful outcomes
2. Explain two barriers to coordinating crisis services
3. Discuss three actions needed to respond to different types of mental health crises
4. Identify two resources and funding available to implement aspects of Crisis Continuum of Care services
5. Describe California's Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis benefit design and implementation plan