
2019 Tribal Youth Diversion Grant ESC Member Biographies

(This list will be updated as bios are received. ... indicates bio is pending)

Michael Ertola, Chair, was appointed Chief Probation Officer of Nevada County in September 2012, after filling the role on an interim basis. He has served in the field of probation for 26 years. The Chief has served in every capacity within probation during his career allowing him the advantage of knowing the needs of a probation department first hand. During his relatively short term as Chief, Mr. Ertola has moved the department through uncertain times with seamless effort. His commitment to staff development and support, as well as to the movement of probation into the new era of supervision has been appreciated by staff and the community at large. The current collaboration amongst local law enforcement agencies, social services and community partners is at an all-time high under Chief Ertola's charge. He is dedicated to public safety and promotes evidence-based practices both internally and within community partnerships. His dedication to community programs extends to local non-profit youth organizations as well as adult programs aimed at forming pro-social connections for high risk probationers and AB109 client alike. Chief Ertola is actively involved with the Chief Probation Officers of California serving on the Executive Committee, Training Committee as well as the Legislative Committee. He is a graduate of California State University Hayward, holding a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies.

Dayna Barrios is Ventureño Chumash, from Ventura California and is the Youth Initiatives Director at the Sacramento Native American Health Center (SNAHC). At SNAHC, her role focuses on mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and alcohol and drug prevention work for Native American youth in Sacramento County. Ms. Barrios earned her Master's Degree in Sociocultural Anthropology, where her ethnographic research focused on tribal disenrollment in California. Prior to being at SNAHC, she was a Native Specific Victim Advocate at WEAVE Inc., the primary provider of crisis intervention services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Sacramento County.

Bill Denke is the Police Chief for the Sycuan Tribal Police Department (PD). Chief Denke is the President of the California Tribal Police Chiefs' Association and the Chairman of the Indian Country Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). He currently serves on the IACP Board of Directors, the US Department of Justice Advisory Committee on Global Justice Information Sharing, the San Diego County Crime Stoppers Board of Directors, and as appointed by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he is an active member of the Criminal Justice Information Services Advisory Policy Board. Highlights of Chief Denke's work include the negotiation of an agreement with the US Department of Interior to deputize Sycuan's officers as special-federal officers and develop protocols for direct prosecution of federal cases with the US

Attorney's Office of Southern California and the Central Violation Bureau, the execution of a memorandum of understanding with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office for the direct prosecution of Sycuan Tribal PD cases, service as the subject matter expert on officer training related to policing Indian lands for the California Commission of Peace Officer Standards and Training Program, and his role as trainer/speaker for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department "Policing Indian Lands" training program.

Peter LaValle, from Humboldt County, retired after a career that included work with children and families...

Denise Villamil, currently a Program Director for Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) Prevention Services at Alma Family Services, has worked with the GRYD Program for 11 years. Ms. Villamil has dedicated over a decade to working with youth and families in diverse communities. She has worked for the Mayor's Office of Public Safety as a Regional Program Coordinator providing oversight and support for agencies providing GRYD Prevention and Intervention Services throughout the city. Ms. Villamil has traveled to Central America providing consulting services to community organizations implementing violence reduction strategies. She is the Chair of the Board of Directors for Girls Today Women Tomorrow (GTWT) and the Volunteer Executive Director for GTWT. Currently serving as a Family Ambassador for KIPP LA Schools and as an Advisory Committee Member for the LA Gang Prevention and Intervention Conference, Ms. Villamil strives to generate greater opportunities for youth who live in communities facing violence and provide opportunities for success.