

## California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant

### FY 2019-20 Executive Steering Committee Member Bios

**Chief Andrew Mills, Chair** was appointed the Chief of Police for the City of Santa Cruz in July 2017. With 35 years of law enforcement experience, as Chief of Police in both Santa Cruz and formerly Eureka, he has strived to become a community-centric and effective crime fighter. He compassionately confronts some of society's most challenging problem openly and transparently. Mills was the 2000 recipient of the Police Executive Research Forum's Gary P. Hayes award for his contributions to improving the quality of police service nationally. Mills managed one patrol team that won the Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing and three others that were finalists. His work in the field is documented in several publications by Police Executive Research Forum and the Community-Oriented Policing Office. Chief Mills has authored and published in several other periodicals. Chief Mills was appointed to the Board of State and Community Corrections in 2018 by Governor Jerry Brown.

**Amanda Benson** is currently Chief Assistant to the Sacramento County Public Defender, Steve Garrett. Ms. Benson holds over 20 years of experience in the criminal justice system and as Chief Assistant oversees the following divisions in her office: Juvenile Justice, Research, Misdemeanor Intake, State Prison and Collaborative Courts. As Chief Assistant, Ms. Benson collaborates with criminal justice stakeholders (Court, District Attorney, Probation, Sheriff, and Behavioral Health) to address emerging multilateral issues and respond to new laws, rules and regulations and to implement systems, policies and procedures regarding criminal justice and social services issues. This past year, Ms. Benson collaborated with stakeholders on the implementation of a Pretrial Release program, a Mental Health Diversion program and a Trauma-Informed Juvenile Court program. Previously, she collaborated to develop procedures to implement Three Strikes Reform, Realignment, and Proposition 47.

Prior to her position as Chief Assistant, she was a Supervising Assistant Public Defender where she planned, directed and evaluated the work performed by attorneys in all stages of client representation including reviewing and evaluating discovery and evidence, interviewing and counseling clients, researching legal issues, and negotiating favorable dispositions, preparing for litigation, conducting jury trials, sentencing and other hearings and post-conviction proceedings. Ms. Benson mentored attorneys to ensure they were knowledgeable and effective advocates. She evaluated staff productivity and utilized data to assess procedural changes and improve staff performance. Prior to her role as a Supervisor, Ms. Benson was an Assistant Public Defender for nearly 14 years, representing indigent criminal defendants in all stages of criminal proceedings on a wide variety of charges including homicide, rape, arson, robbery and gang crimes.

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**Norchelle Brown** is a Watts-Willowbrook native and first-generation college graduate. She completed a dual bachelor's program in sociology and African American studies at the University of California at Riverside. In 2016, Norchelle completed a Master's degree in social work with a concentration in community organizing, planning, and administration from the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work.

As a graduate student, Norchelle interned in the office of Board President Monica Garcia of the Los Angeles Board of Education where she co-drafted a resolution passed by the Board to increase services and resources to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Los Angeles schools. The new policy gained support from Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Senator Holly Mitchell, the FBI and local law enforcement.

Currently, as a Policy Assistant for the U.S. House of Representatives, Norchelle focuses on issues directly impacting the communities of Compton, Carson and Watts-Willowbrook. She also recently founded CivicallyME, a non-profit organization with a mission of increasing civic engagement of young voters in South LA. Norchelle is motivated to continue a career dedicated to underserved communities in Los Angeles County.

**Michelle Scray Brown** was appointed Chief Probation Officer of San Bernardino County in February 2009. She is a veteran of probation service, having spent her entire career with the San Bernardino County Probation Department since 1985. Prior to her appointment as Chief Probation Officer, she served as the Assistant Chief Probation Officer, overseeing day-to-day department operations as the second in command. She also served as a Deputy Chief Probation Officer, commanding both a combined adult and juvenile Community Corrections Bureau and the Detention Corrections Bureau.

During her tenure as Chief Probation Officer, Ms. Brown has been the steward of the probation department during a period of significant change, including the economic issues resulting from the 2008 recession and implementation of the landmark 2011 Public Safety Realignment Act, which brought a sea of change to the California criminal justice system. As Chief Probation Officer, she is dedicated to public safety through collaboration with city and county agencies, community-based organizations, school districts, and law enforcement agencies. She firmly believes that together we can provide effective prevention, intervention, and suppression efforts that will result in increased safety for the community. Chief Brown is committed to her community and profession, as represented by the numerous community, faith-based, service, and professional organizations with which she has been affiliated through the years. She is also actively involved in the Association of Chief Probation Officers of California. Chief Brown holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice, both from California State University San Bernardino.

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**Rev. Dr. Charles Dorsey** is the immediate past Executive Director of COR Community Development Corporation, a large faith-based organization that advocates on behalf of underrepresented communities on a local, statewide, and national level. Rev. Dr. Dorsey is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. His academic record includes a Master of Divinity from the Claremont School of Theology and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of California at Irvine. He recently completed his Doctorate in Organizational Leadership from Pepperdine University. Rev. Dr. Dorsey is regularly consulted on matters of community engagement, millennial outreach, and organizational improvement. Orange County's Human Relations Commission and 100 Black Men recognized him as an outstanding community leader. He was also a featured speaker with Senator Kamala Harris championing justice for marginalized communities. Rev. Dr. Dorsey is an accomplished author, vocalist, and speaker including more 300 speaking engagements and over 15 years of service at COR AME Church in Orange County, CA where his work involving civic engagement, educational advocacy, and youth outreach continues to thrive. He recently launched his firm, The Dorsey Group, LLC., focused on individual and organizational performance improvement. Rev. Dr. Dorsey is happily married to Keshia Dorsey, Esq. He continues to emerge as one of the nation's progressive empowerment specialists and critical thinkers. He believes that one purpose-centered leader can influence world change and hopes to serve this generation by identifying and activating untapped leaders.

**Erinn Herberman, PhD**, has over 17 years of experience working as a researcher and statistician in criminal justice at the federal, regional, and county levels of government. She is currently the Research Director for the County of San Diego Probation Department, overseeing research, evaluation and statistical reporting activities. She previously worked as a researcher with the San Diego Association of Government - Automated Regional Justice Information System, evaluating the effectiveness of regional law enforcement information sharing. She also worked as a statistician for the Department of Justice - Bureau of Justice Statistics, overseeing national data collections in the areas of community corrections, indigent defense, courts and pretrial services. She has also served as a grant reviewer for the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the National Institute of Justice. She holds a Doctorate in Psychology, Master's in Clinical Psychology, and Master's in Public Health from the University of Arizona.

**Stephen Lindley** is a teacher at Lee V. Pollard High School in Corona, California. Mr. Lindley also works for Brady, a national gun violence prevention organization. Mr. Lindley has a Master of Arts degree in Business Management and a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, both from National University in San Diego, California. He has more than 27 years of law enforcement experience, 17 with the California Department of Justice. During his tenure, Mr. Lindley testified in over 80 firearm related legislative hearings, collaborated on more than 100 firearm related bills, assisted in authoring and implementing California's landmark Ammunition Background Check Initiative, authored and implemented the Department's agent worn body-camera policies (the first of its kind for a state level law enforcement agency), and personally advised the Attorney General and Governor on firearm policy and implementation. With his tenure at the Bureau of Firearms, he is widely recognized as a national expert on firearm policy, firearm

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legislation, and firearm law implementation. He has worked throughout the State of California and has interacted with a diverse cross-section. Mr. Lindley has spent decades working and leading in the criminal justice system.

**DeAngelo Mack** is a Director of state policy for Public Health Advocates, a local non-profit, whose mission includes raising the awareness that violence is a public health issue. In his early days, he worked as a youth pastor and community organizer where he encountered violence first hand with the young people and families that he served. He watched how inequality, inequity and the lack of supportive resources played into the increase of violence. His work in these communities around violence led him to create Sacramento's very first hospital-linked violence intervention program which supported young individuals affected by severe violent attacks. In his 10 year of service, he supported nearly 800 families helping them to heal from the repercussions of violence. In his current role as the Director for state policy, Mr. Mack focuses on helping craft and support legislation that supports the betterment of the most vulnerable individuals in our state. He also has the privilege of teaching doctors and surgeons about the social determinants of health that affect these communities so that can better recognize violence and treat is appropriately.

**Julio Marcial** joined the Liberty Hill Foundation as Senior Director of Youth Justice. In this capacity, he plans, coordinates and oversees the Foundation's youth justice grant-making, public policy and capacity building activities. Prior to joining Liberty Hill, he was a program director at The California Wellness Foundation, where he managed a combined grants portfolio of more than \$60 million focused on criminal justice, public safety and other public health issue areas. Active in the youth justice field, Julio is an appointed member of the Juvenile Justice Standing Committee of the California Board of State and Community Corrections, and a former appointed member of the Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families. He is also a founding member of the Southern California Latino Giving Circle and a 2014 American Express/Independent Sector NGen Fellow.

Marcial earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he was awarded an American Sociological Association fellowship to study racial and ethnic disparities in the California juvenile justice system. He has also held a graduate fellowship through the Committee on Institutional Cooperation at the Rackham School of Graduate Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where his research work focused on the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to addressing childhood exposure to violence

**Leannandra Martinez** is an Intake Specialist for First Place for Youth. In her ten years of experience, Ms. Martinez has worked with systems-involved youth, currently and formerly incarcerated people, and individuals experiencing homelessness and has utilized multiple strategies to affect change, from direct practice to policy advocacy and program development. While working to earn her Master of Social Work degree in St. Louis, she worked with the Federal Defender's Office, ArchCity Defenders, and community-based organizations to implement holistic legal defense for indigent clients and developed reentry programs to reduce systems involvement and increase community safety. Ms. Martinez connected clients to housing, employment,

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education, mental health, and substance use services in an effort to ensure the appropriate services were in place to support their re-entry. While doing this work, she learned that community violence can be reduced if people leaving prison have supportive reentry plans and develop a connection to the communities they are returning to.

In her current role at First Place For Youth, Ms. Martinez works with youth involved in the juvenile justice and foster care systems who come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, including gang-involved youth, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) survivors, intimate partner violence survivors, and more. Ms. Martinez recently completed Liberty Hill Foundation's Commissions Training Program, which prepared her to serve on boards and commissions.

**Mike McLively** is a Senior Staff Attorney at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence where he directs their Community Violence Initiative. In 2011, Mr. McLively began work on a volunteer basis and since 2014, he has worked full time for Giffords. This year, he helped spearhead a coalition of more than 30 organizations around California to advocate for additional resources for communities to better address serious violence. Mr. McLively has extensive experience with issues of community violence and various evidence-based violence reduction strategies and authored several major reports for Giffords on these topics. Mr. McLively's role at Giffords is to stay current on the research literature regarding community-based violence reduction strategies and in their first major report, *Healing Communities in Crisis*, he cataloged the disproportionate impact of interpersonal violence on communities of color and identified some of the most promising practices for directly addressing that violence. More recently, a report he authored, *A Case Study in Hope*, explains how Oakland was able to reduce gun violence by 50% in just a few years by putting in place and closely coordinating a variety of evidence-based violence intervention strategies.

**Stacy Alamo Mixson** is the Chief of the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch at the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Ms. Mixson has been with the injury and violence prevention program since 1993 and has served as chief since 2015. As a public health educator and manager with more than 25 years of experience in public health policy and program development and implementation, Ms. Mixson provides oversight to the following violence prevention surveillance activities and programs:

- Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI): An intradepartmental effort, involving the Center for Healthy Communities, the Fusion Center, Center for Healthy Families, and the Office of Health Equity, addressing violence from a public health perspective using public health approaches to reduce violence and create safer communities.
- Essentials for Childhood Initiative: Addresses child maltreatment and other adverse traumas by utilizing the Collective Impact framework to promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for children, families, and communities. (Funded by CDC).
- All Children Thrive California: A three-year, equity-focused initiative to support families through evidence-based programs and services that build community resilience, reduce



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adversity and trauma, and advance conditions that allow children to thrive. (Funded by the Mental Health Services Fund).

- California Violent Death Reporting System: Collects information on the circumstances surrounding violent deaths (e.g., homicides) from multiple data sources (Medical Examiners/Coroners and law enforcement). (Funded by CDC).
- Rape Prevention and Education Program: Supports rape crisis centers to conduct community-based strategies such as bystander intervention, community mobilization, and school-based education to prevent first-time perpetration and victimization of sexual violence. (Funded by CDC).
- Domestic Violence Training and Education Program: Promotes safe, healthy, and equitable relationships through youth leadership and community mobilization activities conducted by domestic violence service organizations. (Funded by the Domestic Violence Fund).

Additionally, Ms. Mixson has many years of experience and expertise in designing grant programs, administering competitive Request for Applications (RFA) and Request for Proposal (RFP) processes, as well as awarding, monitoring and evaluating local assistance grants to community-based organizations for the implementation of public health evidence-informed violence prevention programs.

**Daniel J. Orth** is a Program Officer at the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (Kroc IPJ) at the University of San Diego whose mission is to work together with peacemakers around the world and here in California to develop new approaches to ending cycles of violence. Mr. Orth has experience with the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of violence prevention and conflict resolution programs. This has included work in international contracts including Israel/Palestine, Kenya, Tanzania, and Nepal as well as the United States. For more than two and a half year, Mr. Orth has been leading the Kroc IPJ's Building Trust Partnership which is a program that supports faith and community leaders in San Diego to reduce violence and enhance public safety by improving police-community relations. Through this work, he has had the opportunity to work alongside many individuals who have been impacted by violence.

**Phal Sok** is the Executive Director for the Youth Justice Coalition (YJC) based in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Sok grew up in tough and often violent times. The death of his single-parent father during high school made it worse. After seeking support in school, he wound up pushed out instead and lost his path into electrical engineering. For lack of resources, the only support systems he had were the local neighborhoods. Ultimately, Mr. Sok was tried as an adult after his arrest in 1999 at age 17 and sentenced to 23 years eight months. When Senate Bill 260 passed, he became eligible for parole review and was granted early release, however, when that day come, he was transferred by private contractors into the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency and held in immigrant jail. Nearly a year later, now in his mid-30s, Mr. Sok walked out of the confinement under an order of deportation. Mr. Sok faced tough obstacles during reentry, including returning to ICE custody for physical deportation. With his community's support and the legal skills he taught himself during incarceration, he was able to delay his flight and acquire a bond paid by the community. Later he met the YJC and has been

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a member ever since. Through his community contributions working with immigrant community and youth, Mr. Sok was granted a pardon by Governor Brown in August of 2018. Being a Southeast Asian refugee, he understands how cultural generations are traumatized through war and civil instability. All of his work, whether with YJC, FREE LA High School, or as a member of an executive board, is influenced by this acquired expertise alongside the understanding of how systems have evolved over time and how they have been shaped in a broader historical context.

**Steve Stavropoulos** is a twenty-seven (27) year veteran of the Sacramento County Probation Department. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Sacramento. Mr. Stavropoulos is currently assigned to the Adult Field Services Division where he oversees and manages all field related supervision operations of armed personnel. This includes reviewing all department generated field related events and criminal investigations. He is cross trained as a department use of force instructor in many disciplines for over twenty years and served as the lead instructor for field training and supervised the Field Training Officers program. He has also assisted in managing the department's Adult Day Reporting Centers and worked closely with many of the Collaborative Courts, counseling groups, vocational training partners and adult education officials. He has also managed his department's intake unit where all dynamic risk assessments are conducted to assure proper services and referrals were connected to clients in need. He has managed numerous department contracts with external partners. He has been assigned to an administrative internal investigations unit that reviewed internal and external complaints to include analyzing potential risk management, policy and training issues.

Mr. Stavropoulos has years of experience as a field officer supervising high risk caseloads. He was a gang officer and investigator for eight years and worked daily with other regional gang investigators (Sheriff, Police and District Attorney). He also supervised domestic violence and Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) caseloads. He has been assigned off-site to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department's Problem Oriented Policing (POP) team which was a collaboration to effect change in an area of Sacramento County that was plagued by a high volume of gang violence and narcotic activity. These participating stakeholders included Probation and Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, Code Enforcement, Board of Supervisors, property and local business owners. He has expanded and proactive experience in contacting and interviewing individuals in the community that are heavily involved in gang activity, violence, and narcotic usage. He has also testified extensively throughout his career in court on criminal cases that he initiated and investigated.