



MEET THE SPEAKERS

Amy Allison-Thompson

Amy Allison-Thompson, LCSW, grew up in eastern Montana and is the Clinical Director at Open Aid Alliance. Amy cares deeply about social justice and harm reduction. She graduated from the University of Montana with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in social work. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of the Poverello Center and the National Association of Social Workers Montana Chapter. She also worked as a psychotherapist and specializes in issues related to domestic violence, LGBTQIA+ issues, and homelessness. In addition, she served on the board of directors for the YWCA of Great Falls. She was instrumental in creating and developing the Great Falls LGBTQ Center. When she is not working or volunteering, she enjoys spending time with family and going on adventures in remote corners of Montana on foot, skis, or mountain bike.

Lacey Alexander

Lacey Alexander, LCSW, is the Director of Integrated IBH/SUD of the Montana Primary Care Association (MPCA). She is an enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and has worked throughout her career to advance wellness and resiliency in tribal communities. Her career has included developing and directing multiple non-profit programs providing resiliency support and mentoring services to tribal youth and serving as the Director of the Northern Cheyenne Recovery Center.

Prior to joining MPCA, she directed the Behavioral Health Department of a Federally Qualified Community Health Center and created a fully integrated Primary Care Behavior Health and Medication Assisted Treatment program across seven sites in Eastern Montana. As Director of Behavioral Health, she also worked in partnership with Chief Dull Knife Tribal college to develop and implement an academic training/field experience program for LAC students and Behavioral Health Care Managers.

As part of her work with MPCA, she provides technical assistance in implementing integrated behavioral health programs in rural critical access hospitals and rural health clinics. Part of her work in advancing integrated behavior health in rural health clinics has included developing MSW student practicum placements and serving as a student field supervisor.

Betsy Asserson

Dr. Betsy Asserson is a licensed psychologist and the Director of Montana State University Student Health Partners Counseling and Psychological Services. She has worked in different mental health settings throughout her career and has devoted over 20 years to specializing in college mental health

and training new professionals in their APA-accredited doctoral internship in psychology. She is a member of the Gallatin Behavioral Health Coalition as well as the Montana University System Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Task Force.

Andrew Bell

Andrew Bell has worked with people who use drugs and programs that serve them for the past 15 years in the frontline program management and state administrator capacities. He currently serves as a technical adviser for rural communities across the country that have grants under the Rural Community Opioid Response Program. From 2017 to 2019, he supervised the Maryland Department of Health's (MDH) expansion of the Syringe Services Program (SSP). That work grew to include law enforcement outreach, a statewide ethnographic assessment on drug use (SEADs), and the development of Regrounding Our Response— an anti-stigma project, since adapted in West Virginia. Previously, Mr. Bell successfully helped expand naloxone access in Washington, DC, and began this work in Vancouver, Canada, where he is from. He also works with the national leadership of Faith in Harm Reduction and works to support drug user organizing efforts at the statewide and national levels. He has been the keynote speaker at NASTAD's National Technical Assistance Gathering and the Arizona State Symposium on HIV on the importance of the meaningful inclusion of people who use drugs in programs meant to serve them.

Erin Butts

Erin Butts, MSW, is an Assistant Professor at Carroll College (Helena) in their inaugural Master of Social Work (MSW) program. Their first MSW class will graduate in the spring of 2023. She joined Carroll College, having worked in the area of integrated school mental health for Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) and the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI). Prior to working for GFPS and the OPI, she had the distinct honor of learning from Montana's Tribes while working at the National Native Children's Trauma Center.

Daniel Champer

Daniel Champer, LCPC, currently serves as the Director of Clinical and Residential Services. A farm kid from Ohio, Daniel believes in hard work partnered with care and nurture. He has worked for over 15 years in the mental health field. He has served as a direct care staff, therapist, clinical supervisor, and clinical director in programs specializing in lockdown residential treatment, sex offender treatment, group home care, school-based services, and outpatient services. He earned his Master of Arts in Counseling from Waynesburg University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Daniel specializes in childhood development and complex trauma work throughout the life stages. He is passionate about digging in and coming alongside the tough and complicated situations that so many experience. Daniel is incredibly excited to be reaching even earlier into intervention with our families. He and his wife stay busy after work chasing six children and a variety of farm animals in an attempt to live simply but fully.

Liz Davies

Liz Davies, LCSW, provides programming support and technical assistance to Montana Healthcare Foundation's Integrated Behavioral Health initiative grantees and other partners. Before joining the MHCF team in early 2021, she spent nearly ten years at Community Medical Center in Missoula overseeing behavioral health services, home and community-based services, and social work services in a brain injury rehab program. Liz grew up in Vero Beach, Florida, but has called Montana home since 2004. She received her undergraduate degree from Harvard College and her graduate degree in social work from the University of Montana. Liz currently serves as the Board President for the Poverello Center. She lives in Missoula with her husband and two daughters.

Lindsay DeGroot

Lindsay DeGroot is a licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC) in Montana, a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP), Certified Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapist (C-EFP), a Certified Babywearing Educator (CBE), and the founder of the Wild Rose Family Center and the Madison Valley Adventure Academy. She has experience working as a school counselor in the public school system, as a child and family therapist in a Portland community mental health clinic, and providing services to a variety of clients in the private practice setting. She has additional training in the neurobiology of Trauma, child and adolescent therapy, Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders, Collaborative Problem Solving, Mindfulness techniques, Interpersonal Neurobiology, Attachment Theory, Hakomi Therapy, Art Therapy, Yoga Calm®, and the Love and Logic® family education program. She is a clinical supervisor for pre-licensed mental health counselors, a faculty instructor at Montana State University, and she is currently working towards a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision. As an experienced and dynamic public speaker, Lindsay DeGroot offers numerous local and national presentations as a keynote speaker, general session, or guest lecturer. She engages audiences with evidence-based information, real-life examples, heartfelt authenticity, and transparency. As a faculty instructor at Montana State University in the Health and Human Development Department, she has taught courses in Human Sexuality, Family and Relationships, Group Therapy, Psychopharmacology, and the Ethic of Care. She's developed great skills in addressing sensitive topics while maintaining engagement with an audience and providing a warm and inviting safe space for participants to integrate new information.

Emily Dillow

Emily Dillow has worked as a master's level social worker for over 11 years in Missoula, MT. Her professional experiences span from program management to providing direct clinical care. She discovered her passion for integrated behavioral health while working as a social worker at Community Medical Center's Internal Medicine and Geriatrics primary care clinic. She recently started her new adventure as the Population and Behavioral Health Manager at Community Medical Center. Emily finds inspiration in working with students and is an advocate for creating opportunities for new social workers to gain valuable experiences.

Megan Dishong

Megan L. Dishong is a medical legal partnership (MLP) attorney with Montana Legal Services Association and oversees the MLP and Montana Health Justice Partnership project (MHJP) with primary care facilities around the state. Prior to working as an MLP attorney, Megan was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Montana from 2014-2020, focusing on civil enforcement and health care law. Megan was an associate attorney at Garlington, Lohn and Robinson, PLLP, from 2010-2014. She was a law clerk for both the Honorable Donald W. Molloy and the Honorable Justice John Warner after graduating from the University of Montana School of Law in 2007.

Kee Dunning

Kee Dunning is a psychotherapist practicing in Billings, MT. She has worked for more than 40 years in the mental health arena specializing in working with youth and families. She was recently featured in the documentary "Hiding In Plain Sight," a Ken Burns and Ewers Brothers Production.

Desiree Fox

Desiree L. Fox, Ph.D., Bitterroot Salish, is an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of Montana. She was born and raised on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Arlee, MT. Dr. Fox is a licensed psychologist in Washington and Montana and is currently the Behavioral Health Division Director and Supervisory Clinical Psychologist in her home community at CSKT Tribal Health in St. Ignatius, MT. She is also a consultant for the Center for Court Innovation's Tribal Justice Exchange

in New York, NY. In this role, Dr. Fox is assisting in the development and piloting of a culturally-informed risk-needs tool for use with Native Americans in the criminal justice system.

Dr. Fox completed her doctoral training at the University of Montana-Missoula. Her pre-doctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship training were both completed at the Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Healthcare System—American Lake Division in Tacoma, WA. She completed rotations in Primary Care Mental Health Integration, Pain Clinic, and Telehealth during the internship. Her post-doctoral fellowship was completed within Primary Care Mental Health Integration with an emphasis on Health Psychology with minor emphases in administration and telehealth. Additionally, Dr. Fox served as co-chair of the Diversity Committee for both years of her training at the American Lake VA. In her clinical work, Dr. Fox intends to increase quality, culturally-appropriate services to the patients served in behavioral health services as well as in integrated care settings. Dr. Fox is particularly passionate about providing these services to historically and colonially marginalized populations. Her research interests are in Indigenous resiliency, historical loss and trauma, and holistic wellness of Indigenous peoples.

Brent Getty

Brent Getty joined MLSA in the fall of 2021 after a 14-year career with the Montana Office of the Public Defender, including nine years as a public defender in the Kalispell office and five years as the Deputy Training Coordinator. He also has experience as an appellate lawyer, an insurance regulator, and a professional fundraiser. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics and a law degree from the University of Kansas and lives in Missoula with his wife, their two dogs, and two cats. Brent serves as an attorney with the Montana Health Justice Partnership, a collaboration between MLSA, the Montana Primary Care Association, and local Community Health Clinics located throughout Montana. Brent's primary focus is on Western and North Central Montana, working to provide legal assistance to patients in some of Montana's most vulnerable communities to solve legal issues that impact those patients' health – such as unsafe housing, family violence, and denial of earned benefits. In addition to providing direct client representation, Brent will bring his years of training expertise to educate community health clinic staff and the larger legal community to spot health-harming legal needs and refer those cases to MLSA.

Lisa James

Lisa James provides technical assistance to our grantees and other partners in our Integrated Behavioral Health initiative. Lisa brings over 12 years of health care experience to our team, including seven years with Montana Medicaid. Before joining our team in 2021, Lisa spent five years with the Department of Public Health and Human Services. She held positions such as the Medical Home Program Officer and the IHS/Tribal Section Supervisor. In the Medical Home role, Lisa oversaw value-based and medical home models that looked to provide quality of care rather than quantity and collaboration as a team to give whole-person care. She worked to strengthen the Department's relationship with Patient Center Medical Home (PCMH) and Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+) sites across Montana and worked collaboratively on the multi-payer committee to standardize measures and alleviate provider burden. While serving in the IHS/Tribal role, Lisa cultivated partnerships with Tribes, building trust and improving health outcomes. She provided intuitive and comprehensive support to executive leadership regarding decisions that directly impacted tribal communities. Lisa received her undergraduate degree in business administration from Montana State University-Northern. Lisa currently lives in Townsend and enjoys spending time with her two children.

Roni Johnson

Roni Johnson is a Professor in the Department of Counseling at the University of Montana. Roni earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Montana, her M.A. in Mental Health Counseling from the University of Montana, and her Ed.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision, also from the University of Montana. After teaching for five years at Winona State University in Minnesota, Roni

returned home to join the Department of Counseling at the University of Montana in 2014. Roni's clinical experiences include group home work, college counseling, adult mental health, and couples counseling. Roni currently collaborates on a grant providing free counseling and other wellness services to public health and healthcare workers across Montana. Her teaching and research interests include clinical supervision and supervision training, development and maintenance of intimate relationships, professional ethics, and forgiveness in intimate relationships.

Roni's favorite extracurricular activities include playing Scrabble, floating the river, and spending time with friends and family. She enjoys traveling, being outdoors, and watching her family grow.

Scott Malloy

Scott Malloy directs our behavioral health and capacity programming with a vision and motivation for improving health for people in Montana. Scott and his team provide funding, programming support, strategic guidance, and technical assistance for our grantees in the behavioral health and capacity focus areas and initiatives. Scott works closely with state, tribal, and health care leadership to strengthen Montana's continuum of care for behavioral health. Before joining our team in 2015, Scott served as executive director of the Western Montana Mental Health Center and the director of a Program of Assertive Community Treatment in Phoenix, Arizona. Scott was born and raised in Miles City, Montana. He received his undergraduate degree from Rocky Mountain College and his graduate degree in social work from Arizona State University. Scott serves as the board of directors chair for HRDC-Bozeman and coaches youth basketball. Scott and his family live in Bozeman, where they actively enjoy all that Montana has to offer with an occasional trip to the beach.

Joyce Mphande-Finn

Dr. Joyce T Mphande-Finn is an Associate Professor at Montana State University-Northern. She is licensed as a licensed clinical professional counselor in Montana and Washington State (LCPC, LMHC), a National Certified Counselor (NCC), and an Approved Clinical Supervisor. Joyce earned her Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Counselor Education & Supervision from the University of Montana. She has almost 20 years of clinical counseling experience in different settings, including community mental health agencies, in private practice, in school settings, and has worked as a crisis counselor. Joyce has conducted trainings of Trainers on Integrative response to Substance Abuse, Mental Health, and HIV/AIDS Treatment. She is certified in trauma treatment, sex offender treatment, and is an IMPACT-certified Problem-Solving Treatment of Depression Practitioner. Joyce has worked as a Language and Cultural training coordinator for different volunteer organizations. Her research interests include looking at HIV/AIDS' impact on the Social Support Structure (Extended Family Systems), especially in developing countries; Perspectives on multicultural issues in higher education; Inclusion Issues in Counselor Education Programs; Gender and women issues; and effects of trauma in women/children exposed to domestic violence. Joyce has published in peer-reviewed journals, including the Journal of Counseling & Development and the Journal of Community Psychology. She has contributed chapters in books: Social Class and The Helping Professions: A Clinician's Guide to Navigating the Landscape of Class in America; Supporting The Success of Adult and Online Students: Proven Practices in Higher education; Essay in a Study Guide: Multicultural and Eclectic: My Journey Toward Finding a Theoretical Approach, in 2nd Counseling and Psychotherapy Theories-In Context and Practice.

Tammera V Nauts LCSW, LAC

Tammera received her B.A. in Human Services/Education from Western Washington University and her master's degree in Social Work from the University of Washington in 1993.

Tammera has broad experience in the substance use disorder and mental health fields, ranging from direct service to the administration of programs and services for all levels of care. She has developed

multiple programs for treating co-occurring conditions, including inpatient programs in Washington and Montana, outpatient services, and recovery homes. She has a special interest in innovative practice and systems improvement.

Currently, she is with the Montana Primary Care Association overseeing IBH Special Projects, where she focuses on integrating substance use disorder services into IBH settings, addresses workforce issues for SUD, provides Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Treatment implementation training, and a multitude of statewide training for working with the SUD and MOUD populations.

Pat Noonan

In 2003, Pat Noonan started working for Aware inc. He spent almost 15 years with Aware, primarily focusing on children's mental health, including targeted case management, Comprehensive School and Community Treatment (CSCT), and youth group homes. In 2008, Pat was elected to represent Silver Bow County in the Montana House of Representatives. He served four terms ending in 2016. During his tenure, he served on the Health and Human Services Committee and was a ranking Democrat on Appropriations and the Health and Human Services appropriations subcommittee. His most notable legislation was his work on Medicaid expansion in 2013 and 2015. In 2018, he resigned from Aware and started a consulting firm working with the legislature.

Mike Randol

Mike Randol is the current Executive Director of the Health Services Branch, which also serves as the Medicaid Director for the state of Montana. Mr. Randol is an experienced leader and has a comprehensive understanding of Medicaid. In his most recent role, Mike was a Senior Director with Cerner Corporation. He led the product development team for Medicaid technology solutions.

In his previous role as Iowa Medicaid Director, Mr. Randol oversaw a \$6.5 billion program that serves more than 700,000 Iowans each year. He transitioned to DHS leadership from his role with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, where he served as the State Medicaid Director and the Division Director for Medical Services. As the State Medicaid Director for Kansas, Randol was responsible for leading all activities for the state Medicaid program, including KanCare, State Employee Health Plan, and the State Self-Insurance Fund.

Prior to this, he was the Veterans Services Manager with the Kansas Department of Commerce. Before joining public service, Mr. Randol was a Vice-President with US Bank Corporate Payment Systems and was responsible for a portfolio valued at over \$3.1 billion.

Mr. Randol is retired from the military, where he served his country as a proud member of the United States Air Force, which included assignments in New Mexico, Colorado, Illinois, California, Okinawa, Japan, and North Dakota. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree from William Woods University with an emphasis on finance and a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the University of the State of New York.

Shawn Reagor

Shawn Reagor (he/him/his) is a Helena Resident and the Director of Equality and Economic Justice with the Montana Human Rights Network. Shawn has extensive experience in advocacy, public education, and community building. He leads the Free and Fair Coalition - Montana's coalition of advocacy groups working on LGBTQ issues. He has conducted hundreds of trainings across the state for the public, businesses, churches, and across institutions. However, community building is Shawn's passion; he's built and facilitated trans, nonbinary, and Two Spirit support groups across the state of Montana and organized leadership camps, family fun nights, and campouts. Shawn is considered to

be one of the foremost authorities on the trans experience in Montana. In his free time, Shawn enjoys camping with his partner, Kasandra, and his cat, Copernicus.

Stacy Stellflug

Dr. Stellflug is an assistant professor of nursing at Montana State University. She is also a practicing NP in Billings, MT working primarily in mental health with a focus on pediatric care. Dr. Stellflug's area of research is focused on health care delivery in rural settings and improving patient outcomes.

Ella Smith

Eleanor (Ella) Smith was born in Helena, MT. As a Grandstreet Theatre kid, she developed a taste for the stage at a young age. Ella studied jazz performance and composition at the University of North Texas, where she began to get involved in activism and politics. A young queer grad passionate about promoting progressive policies in her home state, Ella moved back to Helena to work as an organizer with the Democratic Party and then with Northern Plains Resource Council. Since then, she has worked on numerous political and issue campaigns before joining Montana Women Vote as their Program Director in 2018. In her free time, Ella plays piano, writes songs, and plays with her dog, Pippen.

Evan Thompson

Evan Thompson, DNP, PMHNP-BC, is a Board-certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner at Community Physician Group in Missoula. He specializes in child and adolescent psychiatry, mood disorders, neurodevelopmental disorders, psychopharmacologic medication management, anxiety disorders, and trauma and stress-related disorders. He received his Bachelor of Nursing Science and Doctor of Nursing Practice – Psychiatric Mental Health from Montana State University in Bozeman.

Jamie VanderLinden

Jamie VanderLinden is the Director of Behavioral Health and the Child Evaluation Center at Southwest Montana Community Health Center. She is dually licensed as a Clinical Social Worker and Addiction Counselor. Jamie has 16 years of experience in social work in various roles, including child protective services, child forensic interviewer, and behavioral health therapist. Jamie is a member of the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) for Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, and Beaverhead Counties. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Consumer and Community Studies at the University of Utah, graduating with honors in 2005, and later earned her master's in social work from Walla Walla University in Missoula, Montana. Jamie has experience and knowledge in cognitive behavioral therapy, dialectical behavioral therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy, problem solving therapy, solution focused therapy, motivational interviewing, forensic interviewing, and SBIRT. Jamie works with patients experiencing depression, anxiety, chronic pain, trauma, grief, substance use, and situational stressors. Jamie provides direct care to both youth and adult patients using brief, solution-focused therapies, and she works collaboratively with law enforcement, county attorneys, and other community professionals. In her free time, Jamie enjoys exploring the outdoors, especially hiking with her family and dog.

Christa Weathers

Christa has been with Open Aid Alliance since 2008, when she began as an HIV Prevention Coordinator. She became the Executive Director in 2010 and has been dedicated to the evolution and growth of the organization ever since. Christa received a Bachelor's degree in Microbiology from Washington State University and entered the non-profit sector after serving as an Americorps VISTA. She is passionate about providing leadership to address challenging and complex public health issues. Christa currently serves on Montana's Viral Hepatitis Action Planning Group and supports the growth and proliferation of harm reduction in Montana and Idaho.

Christa is a work in progress, and she is humbly reminded of that daily as she navigates life both professionally and personally as a mother. Messy and Wildly Fulfilling are adjectives she might use to describe her life.

Aaron Wernham

Dr. Aaron Wernham is the Montana Healthcare Foundation's Chief Executive Officer and a family physician. He brings his experience in public health and medical practice to provide strategic direction for the Foundation. Aaron works with the Foundation's Board of Trustees to develop and implement strategic priorities, programming, and partnerships. Before beginning his position at the Foundation in 2014, Aaron spent over a decade in clinical practice working in underserved communities in California's urban and Alaska's rural areas. He also served as a policy advisor for the Alaska Native tribes. In his work on health policy at the national level, Aaron developed and led the Health Impact Project, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation initiative to improve the environmental, social, and economic factors that shape health. He has also served on several National Academy of Sciences committees and authored peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and public health reports. Aaron received his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco. He currently serves on the advisory board of the Network for Public Health Law and is a member of the Governing Council of the Wilderness Society. Aaron and his family live in Bozeman, where they spend much of their free time exploring the amazing public lands of the Mountain West.

Lea Wetzel

Lea Wetzel is a Criminal Justice CBHPSS, Cultural Mindfulness Trainer, White Bison Warrior Down Re-entry Coach, Wellbriety Facilitator, Fatherhood is Sacred; Motherhood is Sacred Facilitator, Drop-in Center Coordinator for the state-funded drop-in center contracts with AMDD, Facilitator of our weekly Warrior Down Talking Circle, a Peer Supporter for the 8th Judicial Veterans' Court, and a Podcast Interviewer all under Montana's Peer Network. She offers independent Consulting to organizations and agencies across the state and soon will be training for Indigenous Vision and possibly White Bison.

She's a leader and a voice with connecting and educating, and representing tribal areas within the drop-in center contracts, as well as tribal peer supporters. She is the Vice President of the North Central Montana Human Trafficking & Missing Murdered Indigenous People's Task Force. She has shared space with the Attorney General and other Human Trafficking organizations and works within the state symposiums. Her task force was highlighted this year by the Attorney General, for the great work they are doing in their community and across the state. She takes pride in being a survivor as a Piikani woman in recovery within the movement of intergenerational healing. She believes "Culture is Prevention" within First Nations. Reconnecting to her Indigenous ways and beliefs has enhanced her wellness, and with that, she is able to share knowledge in spaces with those who are interested. She developed MPN's first Indigenous Peer Support Guide and soon an Indigenous Recovery Workbook.

She has had her testimony published in "Correcting Treatment in Corrections," a book developed by employees of Riverview Women's Trauma Treatment Center, a past D.O.C. facility. After being within the revolving door of the judicial system for over 15 years, she graduated from the 8th Judicial Drug Court Program years back. She's determined to do what she can to help others and channels that through being chair of MPN's Criminal Justice Sub-Committee.

She is a full-time mother of two beautiful children and enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her family and loved ones. She says that every day is a chance to honor her Brother Scott's legacy by continuing to be in recovery and finishing what he sought to do, which was being a voice for all our relatives wanting a better life and healing. She's got a passion for helping others of all spectrums, as well as for her people, and we are very honored to have Lea with us here at MPN.