

HIV and Meth in LA County: The Crisis Continues

May 22, 2019 | 8:30am to 12:30pm | St. Anne's Conference Center

Speaker's Bio (listed in order in the agenda)

Steven Shoptaw is a licensed psychologist and is the new Center Director for CHIPTS. He is Professor in the UCLA Departments of Family Medicine and Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences and Vice Chair of Research in Family Medicine. Dr. Shoptaw has a portfolio of work that focuses on the treatment of addiction and HIV prevention in the context of addiction in the Western U.S. where stimulant use is the single strongest predictor of HIV transmission. Dr. Shoptaw is a member of the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) Executive Committee, and Clinical Site Leader for several HPTN studies, including HPTN 061, which documented that high-risk Black men who have sex with men (MSM) have 7% incidence in Los Angeles. He is also MPI on a 5-year cooperative agreement (MStudy) to establish a cohort of MSM of color to investigate interactions between non-injection use of meth, cocaine, opiates and binge drinking and HIV transmission dynamics.

Cathy J. Reback is a Senior Research Scientist with Friends Research Institute, a Research Sociologist with the UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, and the Director of the Combination Prevention Core for the UCLA CHIPTS. Additionally, Dr. Reback is the founder and Executive Director of Friends Community Center the community-based site for Friends Research Institute, which provides publicly funded, culturally tailored, substance abuse and HIV prevention services for MSM and transgender women and outpatient methamphetamine abuse treatment services. The focus of Dr. Reback's research is an examination of the intersection of substance use disorders and HIV sexual risk behaviors among sexual and gender minority status individuals in community settings.

Ekow Sey is a Supervising Epidemiologist at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Division of HIV and STD Programs. He has over 20 years of experience working in the field of public health and HIV. His interests include behavioral surveillance of hard to reach populations and cost-effectiveness and utility analyses.

Lello Tesema is the Associate Medical Director for Prevention at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Division of Substance Abuse Prevention & Control (SAPC). Prior to joining SAPC, she was Director of Population Health and the Los Angeles County Correctional Health Services. Her interests include harm reduction, cross-sector collaboration in addressing social determinants of health, and public health advocacy for the County's justice-involved. She is a graduate of Mount Sinai School of Medicine, completed her residency at Cambridge Health Alliance, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at UCLA.

Charles McWells is Principal Investigator/Project Director of Project 90 – an HIV/HCV/STI prevention program for Black and Latino men who have sex with men and transpeople. He also serves as the Community Services Manager in L.A. CADA's DTLA Outpatient Program. Charles is an instructor with the Community Faculty Program at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. He also a co-host of *The Good News Radio Magazine*, a weekly broadcast which features interviews with healthcare professionals, clinical researchers, faith-based leaders and community advocates. Charles has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Claremont McKenna College.

Mike Rizzo is a Licensed Marriage and Family therapist and a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor. He earned his certification at Los Angeles City College and earned his master's in psychology at Antioch University. Mike founded the Crystal Meth Recovery Services/Addiction Recovery Services, has worked at the Los Angeles LGBT Center since February of 2007 and prior to that was the Program Director of Alternatives, a residential treatment facility in Silver Lake. Mike is considered an expert in crystal meth addiction recovery and has served on the Los Angeles County Crystal Meth Community Task Force and other community advisory boards in the Los Angeles Area. Mike's work within the recovery community has been featured in various mainstream publications, including GQ Magazine, The Advocate and an Emmy Award Winning episode of KCET's "Life & Times" television series.

Sandy MacNicoll is Project Director for addiction clinical trials conducted at the UCLA Family Health Center and she is a part of the UCLA Center for Behavioral Addiction Medicine. She is responsible for development and implementation of assigned research projects and supervises staff carrying out day to day research efforts. She manages regulatory, compliance, and quality assurance. Prior to joining CBAM, she served as Project Director and Director of Operations for the outpatient clinical research center at the UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse programs.

Angela Bartolome is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and the Integrated Behavioral Health Clinical Supervisor at St. John's Well Child & Family Center. Angela is the Clinical Lead of the Assisted Recovery Collaborative (ARC), as well as one of the leading clinicians providing mental health treatment for the diverse populations of St. John's such as the communities of recovery, transgender experience, re-entry, and complex traumas. Angela comes from 15 years of grass-roots community organizing that lead her to social work, and completed her Masters of Social Work from USC. She is currently working on her Doctorate of Education in Organization Change and Leadership from USC.