

Opioid and HIV in Los Angeles: Getting the Word Out to Communities and Providers

Speaker Biographies

Wendy Garland, MPH, is Chief Epidemiologist for the Division of HIV and STD Programs at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. She oversees the evaluation of HIV testing and care services, STD surveillance and monitoring activities and epidemiologic research studies. She currently serves on the Standards and Best Practices Committee of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV and is a member of the CHIPTS Community Advisory Board. Wendy received her Master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in Biostatistics and Epidemiology from USC in 2001 and has over 15 years of experience in the field of HIV prevention, care and treatment.

Michael Marquesen is the executive director of Los Angeles Community Health Project. LACHP has provided overdose prevention and response programming (including Naloxone) to active drug users, since 2000, and provides syringe exchange, peer programming and drug user health services throughout LA County. LACHP utilizes peer driven, street based mobile services, and outreach to engage people who are at the highest risk of overdose.

Ayako Miyashita Ochoa, JD, Ayako Miyashita Ochoa is an Adjunct Professor at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Department of Social Welfare. She serves as Associate Director of the Southern California HIV/AIDS Policy. Ayako's interests focus on HIV-related health disparities at the intersection of race/ethnicity, sexual and gender identity, and migrant status. Prior to her position at Luskin, she served as a Director in the Clinical and Experiential Learning department of UCLA School of Law. Ayako taught courses focused on HIV law and policy and, as a licensed attorney, directed the Los Angeles HIV Law and Policy Project (LA HLPP), a legal services collaborative dedicated to addressing the unmet legal needs of primarily low-income people LWHIV in Los Angeles County.

Ricky Rosales was appointed the sixth AIDS Coordinator for the City of Los Angeles on July 1, 2012. In this role, he advises the Mayor and City Council on HIV, Hepatitis and related health issues. He is currently serving as co-chair of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV and has previously chaired both the Los Angeles County HIV Prevention Planning Committee and the California HIV Planning Group. He has interest in expanding the visibility of locally developed research and programs in the prevention field and currently sits on the CHIPTS Community Advisory Board.

José Salazar, Dr. PH, is the Director of Program Development & Contract Compliance for Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc. (TTC) a non-profit integrated healthcare organization with agency sites in Long Beach, San Fernando Valley, and the Antelope Valley. Salazar is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, where he completed both his Masters and Doctoral degree in Public Health. Since 1988 he has worked in the field of public health as a health educator, counselor, community organizer, coordinator, evaluator, researcher, and administrator. Dr. Salazar has served on the board of several non-profits, co-authored *Essential Spanish for Social Services*, a Random House publication and currently serves on the President of the Board of the Valley Care Community Consortium.

Shoshanna Scholar is the Director of Community Based Diversion for the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) at the LA County Department of Health Services (DHS). She works on Harm Reduction programs for DHS including the LA County Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) pilot program and overdose prevention and naloxone distribution for LA County jails and ODR housing sites. Prior to her work with the government, for 17 years, she was the director of LA Community Health Project/ Clean Needles Now, LA's first needle exchange, overdose and drug user health services program.

Steven Shoptaw, PhD, 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 DAIDS-funded, 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.

Gary Tsai, MD, is the Medical Director and Science Officer for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, a division of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. He is board certified in both general adult psychiatry and addiction medicine, and continues clinical practice at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Having experienced the stigma and criminalization that often accompanies serious mental illness as the son of a mother with schizophrenia, Dr. Tsai is a passionate advocate for improving our behavioral health systems. He founded Forgotten Films, a film production company focusing on social issue projects, specializing in behavioral health. **Voices** premiered on public television in May 2015 for Mental Health Awareness Month and was awarded a 2016 SAMHSA Voice Award, Honorable Mention.