



BEST PRACTICES CLEARINGHOUSE

- Lessons from the Field -

Part 2: Preventing and Addressing Fentanyl Use

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

SPEAKER BIOS

Hamed Negron-Perez

Group Leader, Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Group (SSAE), Office of Safe and Supportive Schools



Mr. Hamed Negron-Perez is the Group Leader for the Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Group (SSAE) in the Office of Safe and Supportive Schools. He is the Program Manager for ED's School Emergency Response to Violence (SERV) grant program and serves as the Contract's Office Representative for the Title IV-A TA Center. Mr. Negron-Perez is a former Secondary School Principal and Science Teacher with over 14 years of teaching experience. He retired from the US Navy Reserves after 25 years of service.

Kari Clay

Family Impacted by Fentanyl, Family Advocate, Co-Founder, FIX, AR



Ms. Kari Clay (Bryde) has worked in marketing and fundraising for over 15 years. Before accepting a position as a Marketing Director with a local private PreK-8th grade school she served as the President of the school's parent organization. She also led the school's Annual Fund campaign and chaired the school's annual fundraiser multiple times raising funds for various educational needs.

Ms. Clay has two daughters. She lost her youngest daughter, Ellison, to fentanyl poisoning. On August 20, 2021, sometime in the early morning hours, Ellison took what she believed to be a 30 mg Percocet while staying at a friend's house. She was found dead, having passed in her sleep. The toxicology report showed only her prescribed

medications and fentanyl; no Percocet, no other drugs... only fentanyl. The minute she swallowed that counterfeit pill, she was going to die. She was 17 and had just started her senior year of high school.

Ms. Clay quickly realized the need for education and the dissemination of accurate information regarding the fatal risks associated with laced and counterfeit pills. Along with her co-founder, the non-profit FIX (Fentanyl Information X-plained) was created in the fall of 2022. FIX's top goal is to distribute information about the fatal poisoning risk associated with street fentanyl and other emerging synthetic analogs throughout the state of Arkansas.

Dr. Cecelia Spitznas

Senior Science Policy Advisor, Office for National Drug Control Policy



Cecelia McNamara Spitznas, Ph.D. is Senior Science Policy Analyst in the Director's Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), a component of the Executive Office of the President and Acting Assistant Director of Translational Research/U.S. Emerging and Continuing Threats Coordinator. As Senior Science Policy Advisor she provides policy analysis and scientific advice for the ONDCP Director, Chief of Staff, and the Senior Policy Advisor for Public Health on special matters of concern. She has been a career federal employee for 22 years including 12 years at the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Drug Abuse (one on detail to ONDCP) and at ONDCP for 9 additional years as an employee. While at NIDA Dr. Spitznas oversaw extramural research on addiction treatment development and provider training, especially provision of these by computerized and mobile platforms. Prior to her federal experience she worked as an Assistant Professor in the UAB School of Medicine conducting NIH funded research with people who used crack cocaine and were homeless. She completed an American Psychological Association internship at U.A.B. and a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in addiction treatment research at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In 1998 Dr. Spitznas graduated with her Ph.D. in experimental psychology (major clinical, minor psychobiology) from the University of New Mexico. She holds a BA in psychology from Wake Forest University in North Carolina. Dr. Spitznas' hobbies are dog training, reading, and gardening. She has survived cancer twice. She is a binge eating disorder expert who considers herself in recovery from obesity and food addiction. Her father, who battled alcohol addiction his entire life but cycled into recovery many times with the aid of 12-Step Fellowship and residential treatment taught her that people can and do recover.

Cathleen Drew

Senior Prevention Program Manager, Community Outreach & Prevention Support Section, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)



Ms. Cathleen (Catie) Drew joined the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 2006 as the Education Coordinator for the DEA Museum. She is currently a Senior Prevention Program Manager in DEA's Community Outreach and Prevention Support Section. In this capacity, she helps educate the public and communicate the Administration's drug prevention messages. She is responsible for the oversight of the Operation Prevention drug prevention curriculum (in collaboration with Discovery Education) and the numerous drug prevention publications provided by DEA's Community Outreach Section. Ms. Drew previously worked as an Interpretive Science Park Ranger for the National Park Service, an Environmental Education Specialist for the Smithsonian Institution and a Marine Biologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Ms. Drew has an undergraduate degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Colorado, and a Master's Degree in Museum Education from the George Washington University. She lives with her family in Northern Virginia.

Jennifer Epstein

Director, Outreach and Education, Song for Charlie, OR



Ms. Jennifer Epstein joined Song for Charlie after losing her dear 18-year-old son Cal to a fake pill in December 2020. Ms. Epstein worked with Beaverton School District to develop their Fake & Fatal campaign, the first known fake pill awareness campaign by a school district in the country. Ms. Epstein is now SFC's Director of Outreach and Education, and is responsible for developing resources to help spread awareness and reaching out to organizations who work with kids. Ms. Epstein brings with her 20 years of both Fortune 100 and start-up operations experience, and over 12 years of working with schools and youth.

Kristen Gustafson

Educator Health/PE TOSA, Beaverton School District, OR



Mrs. Gustafson was a secondary Health & PE teacher for 18 years before transitioning into her new role. She now serves as a Curriculum Specialist for the Beaverton School District. Beaverton is the third largest school district in the state of Oregon and is a suburb of Portland.

Mrs. Gustafson provides support, training and PD for Health & Physical Educators in Standards implementation, assessment, and curriculum mapping. Mrs. Gustafson is currently on the council for PEEK (Physical Education for Every Kid) and helps facilitate a partnership with Nike

and the Portland Trailblazers to provide professional development for BSD physical education teachers. In addition, Mrs. Gustafson runs the PTP, which stands for Pack the Pack, which sends home weekend meals for elementary students in Beaverton School District. In 2015 and 2022-2023 she is also working on the standards and curriculum adoption for health and PE standards for Oregon Department of Education.

Jeri Skrocki

Chief of Safety and Security, Hays Consolidate Independent School District, TX



Ms. Jeri Skrocki is the director of safety and security in The Hays Consolidated Independent School District. Before joining The Hays Consolidated Independent School District, Jeri worked at the Hays County Sheriff's Office for 30 years where she worked her way to the senior rank of lieutenant. Her most recent role has been to supervise the criminal investigations division and its 30 employees. She has worked in the Sheriff's Office in a number of capacities, including managing the School Resource Officer (SRO) program for the school districts in the county, like Hays CISD, that utilize full-time sheriff's deputies for school safety. and developed a model school safety practice in standardizing emergency response protocols. In 2018, she was recognized by Governor Greg Abbott for her role in helping to coordinate a county wide standard response protocol in Hays County. This practice was extolled as a model that should be adopted in counties statewide. She was also included as a member of the governor's roundtable discussion team that evaluated school safety solutions following the deadly mass shooting at Santa Fe High School. Ms. Skrocki, and a small group of county law enforcement and emergency management innovators, worked to implement a single response protocol for the entire county and to train everyone to use the same language during emergencies. The standardized response protocol they effected, and the annual, comprehensive training schedule they adopted, continues to this day at all schools in Hays County. Ms. Skrocki is a Master Peace Officer, a certified Mental Health Peace Officer, a certified expert in the area of child abuse, and a TCOLE instructor with a record of several hundred hours of teaching law enforcement trainers. She is also the commander of the award-winning Hays County Crisis Negotiation Team. Her volunteer work includes having served on the board of the Hays Caldwell Women's Center. Skrocki holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Southwest Texas State University, now called Texas State University. She graduated with honors, completing her education in four years while working and paying for college on her own.

Dr. Smita Malhotra

Chief Medical Director, Los Angeles Unified School District, CA



Dr. Smita Malhotra is the Chief Medical Director for Los Angeles Unified School District, pediatrician, author and speaker. She moved to Los Angeles after the completion of her pediatric residency and chief residency in New York City. As Chief Medical Director, she leads all the medical services of the District and provided leadership for health emergency preparedness and response through the COVID-19 pandemic. She is an advocate for providing children, families, and staff with the tools to cope through the peaks and valleys of their lives and empowering them to take charge of their own health and nutrition. Prior to joining Los Angeles Unified, Dr. Malhotra has had a decade of experience including being the director of a newborn nursery and being the co-founder of a program to build resilience in children experiencing trauma for Los Angeles County. Dr. Malhotra has published 'The Newborn Handbook' which was released in August 2020. She has also contributed to The Washington Post, The Huffington Post, Los Angeles Times, interviewed on CNN, NPR and other media outlets.

Paulina Rock

Executive Director, Office of Health Emergency Response and Support, Los Angeles Unified School District, CA



Ms. Paulina Rock is currently in her 23rd year as an educator. She began her career as a general education teacher and then earned her reading Specialist Credential to become a Literacy Coach and then an Intervention Coordinator. In 2013 she began her career in Administration.

During her professional career in LAUSD, she served students, families, teachers and administrators in Local District East, Central and the Central Office. Ms. Rock's various roles as Teacher, Literacy Coach, RTI Expert, Principal, Director of Personalized Learning Systems, Executive Director of the Office of Covid Response, and Executive Director of Office Health Emergency Response and Support has given her the opportunity to establish collaborative relationships of trust with diverse stakeholder groups with various school communities across LAUSD.

Rodney La Point

Nursing Education and Practice Specialist, National Association of School Nurses (NASN)



Mr. Rodney La Point, MSN, RN is currently a Nursing Education and Practice Specialist for the National Association of School Nurses (NASN). He has 24 Years of experience as a Registered Nurse and 20 Years in School Nursing. He is also the former School Nursing Consultant for the Texas Education Service Center Region 20.

He obtained his master's degree in nursing education from University of Texas at Arlington, and is an Associate Professor at the Illa Faye Miller School of Nursing at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, TX.