

Conference Participants

Discussants

Mary Armstrong, Ph.D.

Joint Associate Professor, University of South Florida; Executive Director, Division of State and Local Support, Department of Child and Family Studies, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute

Dr. Armstrong has over twenty-five years' experience in children's behavioral health, public sector managed care, children's health insurance, child welfare services, specializing in state and local government organizational structures, program development and evaluation, policy analysis, and consultation. Her current activities also include a national study of financing strategies and structures that support effective systems of care, evaluation of child welfare privatization and IV-E waiver in Florida, out-of-home treatment alternatives, and the role of informal supports for parents with children with serious mental health problems. For the past 5 years, she has been a member of the Advisory Committee and a faculty member for the Policy Academy on Developing Systems of Care for Children with Mental Health Needs and Their Families, sponsored by the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health at Georgetown University. She is Co-Chair of the national Outcomes Roundtable for Children and Families and a member of the National Advisory Board of the Quality Improvement Center for the Privatization of Child Welfare Services.

Johanna Bergan

Executive Director for Youth MOVE National

Johanna is an advocate for youth with lived experience in the mental health system who is now working in the field of youth engagement to promote and encourage the inclusion of youth voice in policy change. Ms. Bergan has nine years of experience advocating for important changes in the mental health system to improve the care options and treatment availability for youth adults with mental health challenges. Her voice has been heard on several national platforms including advising technical assistance and research and training centers which support and promote the value of youth voice. As the Executive Director for Youth MOVE National, Ms. Bergan assists chapters of the Youth MOVE network in creating and promoting successful youth driven organizations working to unite the voices and causes of youth at the local, state and national level.

Karyn Dresser, Ph.D.

Director of Research and Program Practices, Star Behavioral Health Group.

In her work with the STARS Academy for TIP, Dr. Dresser helps with developing fidelity and evaluation methodologies and conducting program reviews for site certification. She has worked on large scale

funded research grants and contributed expert testimony on the need for children’s mental health systems of care to the U.S. Congress. Over a professional career spanning thirty years, Dr. Dresser has worked primarily at organizational and institutional levels to affect the overall policies, quality and outcomes of human services.

Veronica Gould

Junior at Portland State University, majoring in Psychology

Veronica is a research intern working with Dora Raymaker on the EASA (Early Assessment and Support Alliance) project. Veronica’s primary academic focus is on social determinants of mental health, stigma regarding mental health, and counseling therapy.

Nev Jones, Ph.D.

Community Psychologist and Mental Health Services Researcher

Nev has a strong focus on early intervention in psychosis and youth/young adult behavioral health services more broadly. She is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Mental Health Law & Policy at the University of South Florida, a faculty affiliate of the Florida Mental Health Institute and a NIDILRR Switzer Research Fellow. Committed to community engagement and stakeholder involvement, Nev has led numerous projects designed to re-center stakeholder perspectives, particularly those of young adult clients, their families and front-line providers. She has been involved in a variety of national and regional training, technical assistance and policy projects, most tied to early psychosis.

Brie Masselli, MA

Director of Technical Assistance & Evaluation, Youth MOVE National

Ms. Masselli serves as a lead for Children’s Mental Health Initiatives, coordinates technical assistance to providers, organizations and communities seeking to become youth guided and trauma informed in order to better serve the needs of family and youth who are experiencing challenges with behavioral and emotional health issues. Prior to joining the leadership team at Youth MOVE National, Ms. Masselli was the Director of Technical Assistance and Continuous Quality Improvement as well as past Youth Coordinator for THRIVE, Maine’s Trauma Informed Systems of Care and was instrumental in the promotion of youth guided care and youth advocacy.

Alannah Mitchell

Undergraduate student at Portland State University

Alannah works with Dora Raymaker as a research assistant for AASPIRE (Academic Autistic Spectrum Partnership in Research and Education). Her academic focus is Environmental Health, with specific interest in social determinants of health and environmental oppression.

Malisa Pearson

Project Coordinator, Family-Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA)

Malisa is the parent of two children; ages 18 and 22; both of whom have behavioral health needs. Malisa’s work with FREDLA supports the national family-run nonprofit’s mission to strengthen the leadership and organizational capacity of family-run organizations. Previously Malisa worked for the Michigan statewide



family network, Association for Children’s Mental Health, for thirteen years. During that time, she was employed as a Family Advocate, the Training & Education Coordinator, the Lead Family Contact of a federally funded SOC grant, the Statewide Parent Support Partner Coordinator, and lastly as the Executive Director. These roles, coupled with her work experience with FREDLA, has provided her with a well-rounded body of knowledge about child serving systems, the importance of relationships, change management and leadership principles, and the power of parent/professional partnerships.

Mariam Rija

Co-Researcher with EASA Connections

Mariam graduated from Pacific University in 2017 with a degree in Sociology and a concentration in Spanish. She is applying to medical school, and hopes to be a neurosurgeon someday, and eventually wants to work for Doctors Without Borders. She loves serving under-served, underrepresented communities in every way possible. In her spare time she plays violin, reads, works out, volunteers with the many communities she is part of, and spends time with family and friends.

Ashli Sheidow, Ph.D

Senior Research Scientist, Oregon Social Learning Center

Dr. Sheidow researches treatments for mental health and substance abuse problems in adolescents and emerging adults, particularly those who have co-occurring problems. She’s also focused on effective dissemination of evidence-based practices, in particular training practices for community-based counselors. She is on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse* and the *Journal of Behavioral Health Services Research*, and has led programming for national conferences on adolescent substance abuse research.

Ming Wang, LCSW

Program Administrator, Utah Department of Human Services, Principal Investigator of Now Is the Time—Healthy Transitions and the Peer Paraprofessional Certificate Training Program

Ming worked in the mental health field for more than 30 years and directed several federally-funded programs including System of Care planning, youth-in-transition, strategic planning, and infrastructure development. Ming has extensive experiences in program implementation in urban/rural/frontier communities and with diverse populations.

Staff

Caitlin Baird

Research Assistant and Trainer at the Pathways Research and Training Center at Portland State University

Caitlin has experience as a youth peer support specialist, wraparound and systems of care trainer,

and a trainer and coach for youth-driven practices. As a young adult, Caitlin struggled with mental health challenges and finding services that met her needs. These experiences motivate her work today to improve systems that serve youth with serious mental health challenges.



Jennifer Blakeslee, Ph.D.

Research Assistant Professor at the Portland State University School of Social Work

Dr. Blakeslee is an early-career researcher with a growing portfolio related to multi-level strategies to support vulnerable transition-age youth and emerging adults, with a particular focus on youth and young adults exiting foster care and those experiencing significant mental health challenges. Recent projects have focused on intervention development and research with transition-age foster youth, including the My Life self-determination coaching model for high-school aged youth in foster care, as well as two projects with the Pathways Research and Training Center—one is testing near-peer mentoring for college students transitioning from foster care and experiencing mental health conditions—and also a curriculum development project to enhance the support networks of system-involved young people who have experienced out-of-home placement and related social development and mental health challenges.

Eileen Muench Brennan, Ph.D.

Research Professor of Social Work at the Regional Research Institute for Human Services at Portland State University

Dr. Brennan is currently the Co-Principal Investigator of the Pathways Transition Training Partnership for the Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures. Her current project focuses on improving the training of service providers who work with emerging adults with mental health difficulties and their families. The author of monographs, book chapters, and articles related to work-life integration for parents of children and youth with disabilities, Dr. Brennan has presented the results of her research

groups' studies at regional, national, and international conferences.

Pauline Jivanjee, Ph.D.

Co-leader of a collaborative research-based training project for service providers who work with youth and young adults with mental health conditions

PTTP: Pathways Transition Training Partnership has included the identification of key transition service provider competencies, creation of a graduate-level social work course on improving transition outcomes, and the development and testing of online training for transition service providers. For over 25 years, Dr. Jivanjee has continuously engaged in multiple research and training projects to improve supports and services for children, youth, and young adults with mental health conditions and their families. As a faculty member at the Portland State University School of Social Work, Dr. Jivanjee has taught MSW and PhD Program courses. She is also currently project director of PSU's HRSA-funded Integrated Care Project, which is preparing MSW students for careers in integrated primary and behavioral health care services.

Nancy M. Koroloff, Ph.D., MSW

Research Professor with the Research and Training Center on Pathways to Positive Futures a part of the School of Social Work at Portland State University

Dr. Koroloff's research focuses on mental health policies and the interaction between child and adult mental health service system, and understanding how services systems adopt evidence based practices and make positive changes for the young adults with mental health disorders. She has also studied the involvement of young adult advocacy organizations in policy and system change and is currently



investigating the role of families in supporting young adults with mental health issues. Dr. Koroloff has provided individualized technical assistance to communities across the country, with a focus on policy change and policy gaps in mental health systems at both state and community levels. Her expertise is in improving organizational and system capacity to implement and sustain effective services for young adults with mental health challenges.

Tamara G. Sale, MA

Director of the EASA Center for Excellence at Oregon Health & Science University-Portland State University School of Public Health and Co-Principal Investigator of the Pathways EASA Connections Project

Ms. Sale was the lead architect of the first U.S. integration of early psychosis services into the public mental health system, beginning with a five-county implementation in 2001 by an Oregon Health Plan regional mental health authority, followed by statewide implementation beginning in 2007. Ms. Sale has overseen and provided model and program development, technical assistance, training, practice guideline and fidelity tool development, research, data collection and continuous quality improvement efforts, strategic planning, grant writing and sustainability planning. Ms. Sale created EASA's statewide Young Adult Leadership Council in 2013 and has worked with young adults to connect their experiences to policy and program development. She was co-author of a textbook chapter on early psychosis intervention, an implementation guide for new early psychosis programs, and a study of international fidelity tool development. She is on the steering committee of the Prodrome and Early Psychosis Program Network (PEPPNET) and co-chair of the national training and technical assistance work

group. Ms. Sale was Deputy PI for the Oregon arm of the Detection and Implementation for the Prevention of Psychosis (EDIPPP) study.

Emily Taylor

Research Assistant working on several projects within the Regional Research Institute at Portland State University

Emily is the Dissemination Manager for Pathways Research and Training Center and enjoys sharing the work done by Pathways with the world, through the monthly e-newsletter, rtcUpdates, Pathways' website, social media and other channels. She is also co-editor for Pathways' annual magazine, *Focal Point*.

Shannon Turner, MSW, LCSW

Research Associate at the Regional Research Institute through the Graduate School of Social Work at Portland State University

Prior to being the Project Manager for FUTURES, Director of Better Futures EXITO, and Executive Director of MLM Certification, Shannon was a youth coach for the My Life Project, funded by both NIH-NICHD and the Institute for Educational Sciences. Shannon coached youth using a curriculum focused on self-determination enhancement for youth transitioning to adulthood from the foster care system. Shannon is passionate about closing the gaps existing for youth in care in terms of accessing resources such as higher education and the ability participate within their communities. Shannon believes creating improved access to resources for youth in care is critical towards improving youth outcomes. Her own experience as an alumna of foster care combined with her education and professional experiences have contributed to her motivation and passion thus far.



Janet Walker, Ph.D.

Research Professor in the School of Social Work and the Regional Research Institute at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon

Currently, Dr. Walker serves as Director of the Research and Training Center on Pathways to Positive Futures—a multi-project research center focused on improving outcomes for older adolescents and young adults with serious mental health conditions—and Co-Director of the National Wraparound Initiative and the National Wraparound Implementation

Center, as well as principal investigator on a number of other grants and contracts. Dr. Walker’s research aims to improve outcomes for children, youth, and young adults who experience serious mental health conditions. Her work focuses on developing and evaluating interventions based on principles of positive development and recovery, and on improving organizational and system capacity to implement and sustain effective interventions through workforce development and the use of fidelity and quality assurance tools.

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