

Guest Trainers Biographies



Vincent Atchity, Ph.D. is President & CEO of Mental Health Colorado. Vincent is an advocate for public health and health equity and works nationally to disentangle mental health and criminal justice—promoting *Care, Not Cuffs*. He has served on Governor Hickenlooper’s and Governor Polis’s Behavioral Health Task Forces, and on Colorado’s First Jail Standards Commission. Vincent recently served on Governor Polis’s Work Group on Transforming Criminal and Juvenile Justice, and currently serves on the Colorado Public Defender Commission, the Denver District Attorney Advisory Council on Mental Health, as well as on the board of The Don’t Look Back Center, an Aurora-based nonprofit that provides case management support for women, transwomen, men, transmen and non-binary individuals recovering from addiction, trauma, PTSD, domestic violence and involvement with the criminal justice system.



Krista Turner has a master’s degree in Marriage and Family Counseling from Regis, with certifications in transpersonal counseling, military families, and organizational psychology. Her career began in 2007, focused on restorative justice, acute mental health diagnosis, chronic illness, pre-marital counseling, divorce, blended families, group therapy and adolescent treatment. Krista is certified in Lean Six Sigma, which directs many data driven decisions in Diversion. For over 7 years, her career has been focused on organizational psychology, as a director of non-profits and currently as a coordinator for the 17th Judicial Diversion program. With over 15 years of experience working in several different organizations, vicarious trauma healing has been a focus, on how to improve organizational health. Her passions include mental health advocacy, traveling, soaking in hot-springs, singing 80's love songs and dark chocolate.



Ingrid Sharos retired in 2009 as the Deputy Director of Probation and Court Services for the Circuit Court of DuPage County. She holds a master’s degree in counseling. In her 32 years, she worked with adults and juveniles as a Field Officer, Supervisor and Program Manager. She developed the only Probation-operated DUI evaluation unit in the state of Illinois. For the past 14 years, she has delivered training for Orbis Partners and The Carey Group. She is well versed in Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral interventions, Assessment, Case Planning and Coaching. Her work has spread in 20 states and a Canadian Province.



Dr. David Robinson has more than 40 years of experience conducting research, developing assessments, and carrying out program evaluations in both youth and adult justice. He was a founder of Orbis Partners (2001), where he is Director of Assessment. He holds a doctorate in forensic psychology from Carleton University (1990) and a Master's in Sociology (1982). During his graduate years he was a team member on the development of such assessment tools as the adult LSI (Level of Service Inventory) and the youth version (YLS-CMI). After a research career in federal corrections (Canada), Dr. Robinson returned to a focus on developing and implementing innovative risk, needs and strength assessment tools. He has directed program evaluations on, substance abuse treatment, cognitive skills, drug courts, boot camps, programs for females, case management models, and juvenile diversion. He has expertise in youth justice assessment and has led state-wide implementations of the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) in fifteen jurisdictions. This work has involved planning, training, quality assurance, and validation of assessment tools developed and implemented by Orbis Partners. In addition, he has been immersed with a team of developers in developing and enhancing web-based applications for assessment and case planning for case managers in human services. Recently Dr. Robinson has made research advances with his academic colleagues related to the contribution of strength assessment in predicting outcomes and helping practitioners develop effective and collaborative success plans for justice-involved youth and adults.



Kristen M. Gilliland, Ph.D earned her Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She later served as an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo. During her professorship at Cal Poly, she taught Organic Chemistry, Neurochemistry, and the Chemistry of Drugs and Poisons. After Kristen's 17-year-old son developed schizophrenia – most likely a result of his high potency cannabis use - Kristen joined the Warren Center for Neuroscience Drug

Discovery at Vanderbilt Medical School (2018) to research new antipsychotic treatments for schizophrenia. During that same year, Kristen delivered a TEDx presentation titled *Rewiring Revolution: Neuroplasticity's Impact on Wellbeing*. Tragically, Kristen lost her son to an accidental overdose in 2019 after his mental health severely declined, and he became addicted to opioids and stimulants. Two years after her devastating loss, Kristen changed the trajectory of her life to utilize her scientific teaching, presentation, and research skills to educate adolescent-aged children and their parents on mental health challenges and how it can lead to substance use and/or substance use disorder.

As the Director of Outreach and Advocacy Programs for the Warren Center, Kristen presents to middle schools, high schools, community centers, law enforcement, prevention coalitions, and recovery programs across the nation. In addition, she developed a multi award-winning educational documentary aimed at middle school and high school-aged children titled *"Speaking Through Me"* that was released August 2023. The documentary and Kristen's presentations focus on the developing teenage brain and neuroplasticity, the structural and functional changes that occur in the brain when under repeated stress and anxiety, the impacts of high potency cannabis on the developing adolescent brain, the neurobiology of addiction, and the dangers and prevalence of fentanyl and other illicit synthetic drugs. Lastly, the documentary and her presentations also include methods to combat everyday stressors or adversity and the importance of self-care and self-compassion on the developing adolescent brain.



Georgina Valdez is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Registered Play Therapist, and founder of Innate Counseling. Through collaboration, advocacy, and psychoeducation, Georgina commits to making a long-term impact on the lives of underserved populations and the systems they navigate. In her fifteen years of experience in the field, she has taken on numerous roles that provide support to high-risk adolescents and adults as a wilderness mentor, probation officer, and therapist. Georgina has a deep understanding of extraordinary challenges that minorities often face when trying to navigate through unfamiliar and complex landscapes of the criminal justice system. She facilitates maximum change by integrating clinical insights with the risk-need-responsivity model.



Ms. Erin Gazelka is a forensic therapist and clinician in Denver, Colorado. She is currently focused on providing therapy and assessment services to adult offenders in the community corrections and parole systems as a clinical supervisor at Correctional Psychology Associates (CPA). Her education and career have been devoted to the intersection of psychology and law since 2000. Ms. Gazelka has been working within the field of forensic and correctional psychology since 2006, providing therapy in the community and acute mental health care and risk assessments in county jails. She has practiced as a Licensed Professional Counselor (#6534) since June 2012 and a Licensed Addiction Counselor (#435) since March 2014. She was listed as a full operating level DVOMB Approved Provider in June 2019 and started a fledgling DV program oriented to high-risk offenders at CPA in September 2019. Ms. Gazelka was appointed to the Domestic Violence Offender Management Board (DVOMB) in March 2019 and is on her second term with the board. Ms. Gazelka has served as an Adjunct Professor of Psychology at the University of Denver since 2013 in both undergraduate and graduate programs. Ms. Gazelka has been recognized for her work as Contributor of the Year at CPA in 2010 and 2012, as well as having been awarded an Alumni Impact Award for her forensic work in the community by University of Denver’s GSPP in 2019. Ms. Gazelka received her Master of Arts degree in Forensic Clinical Psychology from University of Denver's Graduate School of Professional Psychology in 2009. Ms. Gazelka also received her Juris Doctorate from William Mitchell College of Law in 2007, obtaining attorney’s licenses in both Minnesota and Colorado (licenses currently inactive).



Paige Brown, MSM, is the Juvenile Standards Implementation Specialist for the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board. She graduated from the University of Denver, Daniels College of Business with her Master of Science in Management after pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Criminology. Her entire career has focused on juvenile justice matters as well as victim advocacy. In her current role, she provides training and technical assistance on the Standards and Guidelines for Juveniles Who Commit Sexual Offenses as well as informed supervision, the J-SOAP-II, etc. for stakeholders across the state.