

Workshop on Best Practices for Implementation and Evaluation of a Non-Clinical Community-Based Suicide Prevention Grants Program

Biographical Sketches

Workshop Planning Committee Members



Carl A. Castro, PhD (Chair)
University of Southern California

Carl A. Castro is currently professor and director of the Military and Veteran Programs at the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work at the University of Southern California. He also serves as director of the USC-RAND Epstein Family Foundation Center for Veterans Policy Research. Dr. Castro served in the U.S. Army for over 30 years, retiring at the rank of colonel. Dr. Castro participated in the Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo Campaigns, Operation Northern Watch, and the Iraq War. Dr. Castro has chaired numerous NATO and international research groups, and he is currently Co-Chair of a NATO group exploring Military and Veteran Radicalization. He serves in an uncompensated capacity on the Cohen Veterans Network Scientific Advisory Board and as Vice Chair on the Board of Directors of the Greater Los Angeles Veterans Research and Education Foundation. Dr. Castro is a member of the NASEM Committee on Evaluating the Effects of Opioids and Benzodiazepines on All-Cause Mortality in Veterans and previously served on the Committee on Evaluation of Research Management by Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CMDRP). Dr. Castro is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the National Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. His current research efforts are broad and include: (a) the exploration of the military culture that leads to acceptance and integration of diverse groups; (b) understanding and ameliorating the effects of military trauma and stress, especially combat and deployment, on service members and their family; (c) the prevention of suicides and violence such as sexual assault and bullying; and (d) evaluating the process of transitioning into the military and transitioning from military service back to civilian life.



Diana E. Clarke, PhD
American Psychiatric Association

Diana E. Clarke is the Senior/Managing Director of Research and Senior Epidemiologist/Research Statistician at the American Psychiatric Association. She is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Mental Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is president-elect for the International Academy of Suicide Research (IASR) and has been an active member of the organization's board since 2020. She is also a certified mental health counselor. Dr. Clarke conducts research on the assessment and prevention of mental and substance use disorders with specific interest in

understanding the underlying causes of suicide and suicidal behaviors. Her research also addresses the cultural context of suicide and suicidal behaviors and how cultural humility can lead to more informed prevention strategies. She served on advisory panels for PCORI and the executive committee of Friends of NIMH to help inform the future of funding for research on mental disorders including suicide. In addition, she has served as a grant reviewer for organizations such as PCORI and scientific officer for the Canadian Cancer Education and Research Network. Dr. Clarke completed her graduate training in Epidemiology at the University of Toronto and postdoctoral training in psychiatric epidemiology at JHSPH.



Daniel Friend, PhD
Mathematica

Daniel Friend is a principal researcher in Mathematica’s Human Services division. He is also an adjunct faculty at two universities: the University of Illinois Chicago Public Health Department and the School of Psychology at DePaul University. Dr. Friend is an expert in behavioral health, behavior change theory, and implementations science. For over a decade, he has applied this knowledge to help the federal government— and others— develop, implement, and evaluate a range of health and human service programs. Currently, Dr. Friend is the PI for the evaluation of the state-wide

CA youth and behavioral health initiative and a project for the Administration for Children Families aimed at improving healthy relationship and parenting services for Tribal/Indigenous communities. Dr. Friend holds a Ph.D. in public health and community health sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an M.S. in psychology from the University of Oregon.



Bernice A. Pescosolido, PhD
Indiana University

Bernice A. Pescosolido is Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Director of the Irsay Institute for the Sociomedical Sciences at Indiana University. As a medical sociologist and network scientist, her research has focused on issues of suicide, mental illness and stigma. Drawing from classic work on suicide, she has translated an early theory of group relationships into social network terms, developed direct and indirect measures of connectedness, and broken through data barriers in the study of completed suicide through harmonization of the US Census’ American Community Study and the

CDC’s National Violent Death Reporting System. She has received career awards from the American Sociological Association and the American Public Health Association. An elected member of both the National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences, Pescosolido currently serves on NAM’s Governing Council.



Ellyson R. Stout, PhD
Education Development Center (EDC)

Ellyson R. Stout is EDC's US Director of Community Suicide Prevention and serves as Director of EDC's subcontract supporting SAMHSA's 988 Communications Support Contract. She previously led the national Suicide Prevention Resource Center, and served as a Program Manager and Behavior Change Communication director for PSI, an international public health social marketing company. Stout brings a background in global and US public health, health communications, and behavioral health and suicide prevention. She has expertise in dissemination & implementation science, and has worked for over 17 years with states, Tribes, communities, schools, and health systems to help fit bring national best practice guidance to their local context, culture and assets. Stout is skilled in presenting complex information, providing coaching and consultation to diverse audiences, and working across a wide variety of settings, populations, and health outcomes. Stout is a Peter F. Krogh scholar and a Schweitzer Fellow for Life, and received multiple academic honors in her studies. She is a member of the American Public Health Association and the International Association for Suicide Prevention and serves on several advisory groups and expert panels. Her undergraduate training is in international politics, and her graduate degree is in Health Communication.



Colin G. Walsh, PhD
Vanderbilt University

Colin G. Walsh received a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Princeton University in 2002 and his medical degree from the University of Chicago in 2008. He completed residency and chief residency in internal medicine at Columbia University Medical Center in 2012. Following residency, he received his primary professional degree in Biomedical informatics in postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University in 2014 under research mentor Dr. George Hripcsak. Dr. Walsh joined the faculty at Vanderbilt University in 2015 as Assistant Professor of Biomedical Informatics, Medicine, and Psychiatry and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2021. His research includes machine learning to enable clinical decision support; scalable phenotyping with structured and unstructured clinical data; and public health informatics for preventive Healthcare AI. He is a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics, the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics, and AMIA.

Speakers



Ebony Akinsanya, MPH
CDC Foundation

Ebony Akinsanya is a distinguished public health leader with over 25 years of experience in forging transformative partnerships, driving innovative program implementation, and optimizing resources to expand reach and impact. Her professional journey reflects a steadfast commitment to advancing public health outcomes through strategic thinking and operational excellence.

As the Director of Non-Infectious Disease Programs at the CDC Foundation, Ebony leads a dynamic team in developing and promoting cutting-edge public health strategies and innovations. She is instrumental in fostering collaboration among internal and external stakeholders to scale initiatives, amplify impact, and support critical public health missions. Her leadership spans several key areas, including evaluating veteran suicide prevention programs, enhancing maternal health outcomes, and empowering community-based organizations through capacity-building frameworks.

In her previous roles, Ebony thrived as an independent management consultant and public health privacy officer, spearheading initiatives to improve vocational rehabilitation services, ensure HIPAA compliance, and develop peer recovery coaching programs. Earlier in her career, she passionately advocated for HIV/AIDS communities, secured vital federal funding, and designed impactful health programs for underserved rural populations.

Driven by a mission to empower communities and create opportunities for healthier outcomes, Ebony excels in strategic planning, resource mobilization, and technical leadership. Her dedication to translating vision into measurable impact continues to transform lives and inspire change.

Alex E. Crosby, MD, MPH

Morehouse School of Medicine

Alex E. Crosby was born in Highland Park, Michigan and raised in Detroit. He is the oldest son of Emeral and Corene Crosby and a husband and father of four children. He graduated with a BA in chemistry from Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., an MD from Howard University's College of Medicine in Wash., D.C., and an MPH in health administration and management from Emory University's School of Public Health in Atlanta, Georgia. He completed training in Family Medicine at Howard University Hospital; General Preventive Medicine and Public Health at Morehouse School of Medicine and the Georgia Division of Public Health and epidemiology at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Epidemic Intelligence Service. He worked at the CDC for 30 years responding to numerous public health emergencies addressing suicide clusters, civil unrest, school-associated violence, sniper attacks, firearm-related injuries, and the response to hurricanes, Ebola and Coronavirus. He has authored or co-authored over 125 publications. His work focuses on prevention of suicidal behavior, child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, interpersonal violence among adolescents, and assault injuries among minorities. He currently serves as a professor in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine at the Morehouse School of Medicine.



Mary F. Cwik, PhD

Johns Hopkins University

Mary F. Cwik is a Licensed Psychologist, Associate Director, and Senior Scientist at the Center for Indigenous Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, with a joint appointment in Psychiatry at the School of Medicine. She holds a B.A. in Psychology and Philosophy from Johns Hopkins University, a Ph.D. in Child Clinical Psychology from Southern Illinois University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins.

For the past 20 years, Dr. Cwik has focused on suicide, substance use, and trauma, particularly in addressing Native American mental health disparities. In partnership with the White Mountain Apache Tribe, her work has identified key risk and protective factors—including cultural identity—and supported interventions linked to reduced suicide rates. She is a Johns Hopkins Distinguished Alumna and has served on several local and national suicide prevention committees, including for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.



Carrie M. Farmer, PhD
RAND

Carrie M. Farmer is codirector of the RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute, a senior policy researcher at RAND, and director of the RAND Health Care Quality Measurement and Improvement Program. For two decades, her research has focused on improving access to high quality health care for veterans, service members, and their families. Her work has included evaluations of the quality of VA care, development of standards for high-quality mental health and traumatic brain injury care for veterans, systematic reviews of long-term outcomes for veterans with traumatic brain injury, state-based veteran needs assessments, and studies to assess the capacity of community providers to meet the health care needs of veterans. She has testified on access to VA health care before the United States Senate. She holds a Ph.D. in health policy from Harvard University and a B.A. in psychobiology from Wellesley College.



Novalene Alsenay Goklish, DrBH, MS
Johns Hopkins University

Novalene Alsenay Goklish is White Mountain Apache Tribe and has been an integral part of the Johns Hopkins University Center for Indigenous Health since February 1997. With over 28 years of experience as a behavioral health interventionist, Novalene has dedicated her career to improving the mental and physical well-being of her White Mountain Apache community. In her current role as Assistant Scientist, she manages more than 15 mental and behavioral health initiatives focused on the health and resilience of Native American populations.

Novalene's professional journey began in 1997 when she began working with Native American pregnant teens, teaching prenatal wellness and parenting skills. Today, **Family Spirit** is recognized as an evidence-based model and is used in over 130 Native American and minority communities across the United States.

In addition to her work on Family Spirit, Novalene has contributed to a variety of behavioral health intervention projects aimed at addressing pressing issues within Native communities. These include programs focused on teen pregnancy prevention, youth entrepreneurship, and mental health support for at-risk youth. One of her key initiatives is the **Celebrating Life Suicide Prevention Program**, which provides critical support to community members who experienced binge substance use, non-suicidal self-injury, or suicidal thoughts or behaviors. Novalene's dedication to community service is matched by her academic accomplishments. She earned a Doctorate in Behavioral Health from Arizona State University, a Master of Science in

Professional Counseling from Grand Canyon University, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management with an emphasis in Community Health Education from the University of Phoenix.



Brandi Jancaitis, MPH
Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Brandi Jancaitis brings extensive personal and professional experience in programs and services for military and veteran families. She currently serves as the Director of the Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Program at the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS). VVFS is a statewide program that provides peer and family support and behavioral health and supportive services linkages to Military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF). Also, in her current role with VVFS, she oversees the Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS) community and research grant program team. She also leads regional and statewide suicide prevention efforts for Military and Veterans including the Richmond Mayor's Suicide Prevention Challenge and statewide Governor's Suicide Prevention Challenge teams. Brandi also served as the Director of Housing Development for Veterans for VDVS and worked on the statewide effort to reach the functional end to Veteran Homelessness in Virginia. At the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), Brandi served as the first Military and Veterans Affairs Director and helped enhance treatment and supportive services in the public mental health system. Brandi is a graduate of Virginia Tech and Virginia Commonwealth University, an Army Veteran Spouse, and Mother of three.



Richard McKeon, PhD, MPH
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Richard McKeon received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Arizona, and a Master of Public Health in Health Administration from Columbia University. He has spent most of his career working in community mental health, including 11 years as director of a psychiatric emergency service and four years as Associate Administrator/Clinical Director of a hospital-based community mental health center in Newton, New Jersey. In 2001, he was awarded an American Psychological Association Congressional Fellowship and worked in the United States Senate for Sen. Paul Wellstone, covering health and mental health policy issues. He spent five years on the Board of the American Association of Suicidology as Clinical Division Director and has also served on the Board of the Division of Clinical Psychology of the American Psychological Association.

He is currently Senior Advisor in the SAMHSA 988 and Crisis Office after serving for 12 years as Chief for the Suicide Prevention Branch in the Center for Mental Health Services where he oversaw all branch suicide prevention activities, including the Garrett Lee Smith State/Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention, and Campus Suicide Prevention grant programs, the Zero Suicide initiative, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, and the Native Connections program. He has worked with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline since its inception in 2005, including establishing the foundation for 988 as the national suicide prevention number. In 2008, he was appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Secretary's Blue Ribbon Work Group on Suicide Prevention. In 2009, he was appointed by the Secretary of Defense to the Department of Defense Task Force on Suicide Prevention in the Military. He served on the National Action

Alliance for Suicide Prevention Task Force that revised the 2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services project management team coordinating the 2024 revision of the U.S. National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. He also participated in the development of World Health Organization's first World Suicide Prevention Report.

In 2023 he was awarded the American Association for Suicidology Dublin Award for Lifetime Achievement in Suicide Prevention. Also in 2023, he was a finalist for the Samuel J Heyman Service to America Medal for his contribution to the establishment of 988 as the new United States national suicide prevention and mental health crisis number.



Matthew Miller, PhD, MPH
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Matthew Miller is the Executive Director of the Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) where he leads a team dedicated to the implementation and reinforcement of VA's top clinical priority: preventing Veteran suicide. OSP engages a public health approach to suicide prevention, integrating evidenced-based community and clinical interventions, strategic planning, program operations, program evaluation, and crisis services through the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL). Under Dr. Miller's leadership, the VCL became the world's largest and most efficient suicide crisis call center and in 2022, expanded their life-saving services by implementing Dial 988 then Press 1. A visionary in his approach, he has a focus on leading-edge technology and pioneering suicide prevention ideas and solutions through efforts like Mission Daybreak. Dr. Miller fosters non-traditional collaborations, recognizing the value of diverse perspectives and partnerships in achieving the shared goal of saving lives. He leads the team from a perspective that everyone plays a role in preventing Veteran suicide.

Dr. Miller began his VA career as the Chief of Mental Health at Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw, MI, where he later became the Deputy Chief of Staff. Dr. Miller received his PhD from Michigan State University and a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Michigan. Dr. Miller is an Air Force Veteran. He completed his professional residency in Clinical Psychology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Medical Center and served as the Chief of Mental Health at a Joint Services Pilot Training Wing. Dr. Miller was responsible for overseeing outpatient mental health operations for all service members and dependents within the installation community. In addition, he was head of the installation's suicide prevention, alcohol and drug demand reduction, critical incident response and family advocacy programs.



Jeff Niederdeppe, PhD
Cornell University

Jeff Niederdeppe is senior associate dean of faculty development in the Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy and the Liberty Hyde Bailey professor of communication and public policy at Cornell University. He is founding co-director of the Collaborative on Media and Messaging (COMM) for Health and Social Policy (commhsp.org) and co-director of the Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq). His research examines the design and impact of media campaigns, strategic messages, news coverage, and social media content in shaping health behavior and social policy. He has published more than 220 peer-reviewed articles in

communication, public health, health policy, and medicine journals, and his work has been funded in recent years by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. He was elected as a Fellow of the International Communication Association in 2022. He serves on the editorial boards for seven journals in communication and public health. He currently serves on the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academies, is a member of the consensus committee for a forthcoming National Academies report on Understanding Breastfeeding Promotion, Initiation and Support Across the United States, and previously served on the consensus committee for a 2018 National Academies report on Getting to Zero Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities: A Comprehensive Approach to a Persistent Problem.



Tanha Patel, MPH
CDC Foundation

Tanha Patel is a nationally recognized expert in public health evaluation with over 15 years of experience designing and implementing evaluations of community-based and systems-level initiatives. She currently serves as a Senior Technical Advisor at the CDC Foundation, where she leads national evaluation efforts focused on maternal and infant health, veteran suicide prevention, and evaluation capacity building among community-based organizations.

Tanha has developed and implemented evaluation toolkits, facilitated national trainings, and supported the strategic use of data for over 100 healthcare and public health professionals. Her leadership has advanced the understanding of how non-clinical, community-rooted programs contribute to suicide prevention and overall public health impact. She has administered mini-grants and provided individualized technical assistance to veteran-serving organizations to strengthen their capacity to document outcomes and build sustainable, evidence-informed non-clinical suicide prevention programs.

Previously, Tanha led evaluation efforts at the University of North Carolina and Wake Forest School of Medicine, where she guided multi-million-dollar NIH-funded programs in translational research and learning health system transformation. Her work has been published in leading journals including *Learning Health Systems* and the *Journal of Clinical and Translational Science*.

Tanha brings a deep commitment to translating evaluation findings into actionable strategies that enhance the effectiveness of comprehensive suicide prevention efforts.



Kristen Quinlan, PhD,
Education Development Center (EDC)

Kristen Quinlan is a Senior Research Scientist at EDC, where she serves as a Senior Research Advisor for the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. In this role, she supports the Progress, Accountability, and Data Advisory Group, which is working to develop and launch a framework for tracking progress on the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention*.

Working closely with public and private sector partners, Dr. Quinlan is currently drafting the National Strategy's Theory of Change Framework. This role demands proficiency in developing complex, nested logic models that reflect the functioning of a national system, a comprehensive understanding of the landscape of suicide prevention across the nation, effective leadership in

engaging cross-agency and cross-sector partners, and a strong familiarity with HHS and other national surveillance systems.

Throughout her career, Dr. Quinlan has been dedicated to enhancing evaluation capacity within grassroots agencies, communities, and states. As the Director of Evaluation for the SAMHSA-funded Suicide Prevention Technical Assistance Center (SPTAC), she evaluates the operational effectiveness of the national center and supports grantees in their evaluation-related needs.

Dr. Quinlan is deeply committed to injury control and prevention, co-founding the Intersectional Council Workgroup for Suicide Prevention in the American Public Health Association. This initiative aims to engage all 32 member sections in promoting the importance of public health approaches to suicide and violence prevention.

Dr. Quinlan received her Ph.D. from the University of Rhode Island in Behavioral Science in 2006, with a focus on Research Methods. She has served as adjunct faculty for the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College, teaching in the Psychology and Women's Studies Departments. She has over 15 years of experience in working in public health.



David C. Rozek, PhD, ABPP

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

David C. Rozek is a board-certified clinical psychologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He serves as the Director of Strategy and Evaluation for the STRONG STAR Training Initiative and the Senior Scientific Advisor for *Face the Fight*, a national suicide prevention initiative focused on scaling evidence-based interventions for veterans. Dr. Rozek's research and clinical work focus on cognitive and behavioral therapies for suicide, PTSD, and depression, with a strong emphasis on increasing access to effective care through real-world implementation strategies. His work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Defense (DoD), Boeing Corporation, USAA, and state and local agencies to advance suicide prevention and trauma recovery efforts across diverse populations, including military personnel, first responders, and high-risk civilians. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed scientific articles and delivered more than 50 invited talks and conference presentations. His trainings have reached thousands of mental health professionals, peer specialists, and public safety personnel both nationally and internationally. Dr. Rozek received his PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Notre Dame, completed his residency at the Orlando Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical neuroscience at the University of Utah. He is committed to bridging the gap between research and practice to improve mental health outcomes in underserved and high-risk communities.



Corbin J. Standley, PhD,

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)

Corbin J. Standley is a community psychologist and researcher with more than a decade of experience in research, evaluation, and policy. His career has focused on public health and community-level approaches to suicide prevention through capacity building, equitable systems change, and policy change. He has published numerous research articles and book chapters and has presented his research at multiple national and international conferences.

As the Senior Director of Impact Communication and Continuous Improvement at AFSP, Dr. Standley leads the continuous improvement and evaluation of AFSP and partnership programs and initiatives; drives impact communication efforts to disseminate AFSP's reach and impact; and drives organizational learning through needs assessments, continuous improvement approaches, and special evaluation initiatives.

Dr. Standley's dedication to community-engaged scholarship earned him the American Association of Suicidology's Citizen Scientist Award in 2020 and nominations for Forbes 30 Under 30 for Science in 2021 and 2022. He has also used his research to inform policy work in providing testimony, helping to draft legislation, and working with legislators to prevent suicide. These efforts earned him the Sandy Martin Grassroots Field Advocate for the Year Award from AFSP in 2019. His commitment to amplifying and empowering voices in evaluation earned him an American Evaluation Association President's Award in 2024.

Dr. Standley earned his doctoral degree in ecological-community psychology from Michigan State University and holds a Master of Arts degree from MSU and a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Weber State University.



Christine Walrath, PhD, MHS
ICF

Christine Walrath, a senior vice president and chief science officer in public health at ICF, brings over 25 years of expertise in behavioral health research and community-based program evaluation. Dr. Walrath's experience has been dedicated to understanding the patterns, characteristics and outcomes of individuals at risk for suicidal behavior or experiencing mental illness; focusing on areas such as prevention and service system response, child traumatic stress, school-based mental health, co-occurring disorders, serious emotional disorders and mental illness, and engagement of individuals with lived experience. Since 1994, Dr. Walrath has supported the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) on numerous high-priority behavioral health initiatives, serving as Principal Investigator (PI) of large-scale, national evaluations of SAMHSA-funded programs, including the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program, the Zero Suicide Program, and the 988 Lifeline and Crisis Services initiative. Her recent work includes designing and implementing multimodal, multilevel, and multisite approaches to data collection; developing instruments; analyzing large-scale primary and extant behavioral health data; using data to drive program and practice; providing training and technical assistance (T/TA) in the areas of data collection, management, and submission; and disseminating research findings to diverse audiences. Dr. Walrath has a dual background in community psychology and public mental health and began her career at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she still holds an adjunct faculty position.



Itzhak Yanovitzky, Ph.D
Rutgers University

Itzhak Yanovitzky is Professor of Communication (primary) and Professor of Public Health (secondary) at Rutgers University. He is an expert in the areas of behavior change communication, translational research, and program evaluation. Professor Yanovitzky's program of research explores effective mechanisms for communicating complex information to diverse audiences and improving use of evidence in health policymaking and practice settings.

He has an extensive experience partnering with collaborators across academic disciplines and sectors to address a range of public health problems, including most recent efforts to address the opioid epidemic and the rising toll of youth depression and suicide. Professor Yanovitzky is past chair of the Health Communication Division of the International Communication Association and a past member of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Standing Committee on Advancing Science Communication.

Staff, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine



Sharon Britt, BBA, is the program coordinator for the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences. She graduated from Strayer University in Washington, D.C. with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She worked at Howard University Hospital for 15 years as a Program Coordinator with the Graduate Medical Education Department. In this position, she managed the Orthopedic and Podiatric Surgery Residency program that prepares residents to succeed in their practice locations and specialties and provides high-quality care. Prior to her position as the residency coordinator, she worked on several government contracts as a helpdesk manager and IT analyst.



Daniel J. Weiss, PhD, joined the National Academies as Director of the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences in June 2022. Prior to assuming this role, Dan served as a professor of psychology and linguistics at The Pennsylvania University. His research focused on language acquisition and motor planning, using a comparative approach, measuring performance across human infants and adults as well as nonhuman primates. Dan graduated Summa Cum Laude from University of Maryland and completed his master's degree and PhD in the Cognitive Brain and Behavior program at Harvard University. After finishing his PhD, Dan was a postdoc for three years at the University of

Rochester. He also recently served a term as the Editor-in-Chief for Translational Issues in Psychological Science.



Tina M. Winters is a Program Officer with the Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. She has worked on many consensus studies and other projects on topics including leveraging behavioral science to reduce the impact of dementia, factors that bear on the quality and success of scientific research, influences on aging, program evaluation, and learning across the lifespan. Prior to joining BBCSS in 2011, her work at the National Academies centered on studies and other activities related to K-16 science and mathematics education, educational assessment, and education research.