



CDC Tribal Opioid Technical Advisory Group (OTAG) 2020-2021 Biographies



Clinton Alexander (Anishinaabe – White Earth Ojibwe)

Director, White Earth Tribal Health

Mr. Alexander was Program Director for Sacred Spirits focused on prevention-based services; worked with Minnesota Dept of Health, IHS, and tribal programs on coalition-based approaches to mitigate disease and death from opiate drug use; and developed the *indibendaagozimin gaye gidizhitwaawininaaning* – “we belong in our culture, too” program on bullying and violence. He received his BA in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Concordia College and his MPH from North Dakota State University.



Christina Arrendondo

Medical Director, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Dr. Arrendondo worked in mental health treatment and research in San Francisco and Stanford University and has worked in inpatient care, outpatient care, and emergency care. She received her BA in Psychology from Carleton College, her MD at University of Washington, and Psychiatry Residency and Public Psychiatry Fellowship at Yale University. Her interests lie in public health capacity building, Native health, data management, addiction services, integration of culture into a medical model of care, and helping bring about behavioral change.



Sean Bear (Meskwaki)

Co-Director, the National American Indian and Alaska Native Addiction Technology Transfer Center (AI/AN ATTC)

Mr. Bear has worked with Native Americans with Substance Use issues for many years. He received his third honorable discharge from the Army after over 9 years of service and served with the 82nd Airborne Division. He received his BA in psychology and human services from Buena Vista University and studied mental health counseling at Drake University for 2 years. His passion is to assist people in overcoming the many obstacles within life and themselves, and to return to the spiritual ways of their ancestors.



David Begay (Navajo)

Traditional Healer/ Associate and Adjunct Professor

Dr. Begay has over 30 years of experience working with indigenous communities and university scientists. He received his MA in Political Science/Native American Policy and Law from the University of Arizona and his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Integral Studies in Integral Studies: Leadership in Native American Education. He is an Adjunct Professor with NAU, Flagstaff, in the Physics and Astronomy Department, and a Research Associate Professor at UNM, College of Pharmacy, CEP Program, as well as working with the Navajo Birth Cohort Study grant and the Native American Environmental Health Equity grant.



Nathan Billy (Choctaw)

Deputy Director, Behavioral Health for Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority (CNHSA)

Dr. Billy worked for CNHSA as a substance abuse and mental health therapist in their men’s residential Recovery Center. He currently co-directs the Tribal Opioid Response SAMHSA grant, focusing on prevention, treatment and recovery among tribal populations. He plans to complete his dissertation focusing on Choctaw socio-cultural identity as a source of strength and resilience in recovery from substance use disorders.



Adrian Dominguez

Scientific Director, Urban Indian Health Institute

Mr. Dominguez has over 25 years of experience working as an epidemiologist and public health professional. Currently, he directs a team of epidemiologists conducting research, surveillance, and evaluation on issues of importance to urban Indian communities. He weaves technical rigor together with the utmost respect for the strength and resilience of indigenous communities. He received his MS in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Public Health, and was awarded the Harvard University Health Professionals fellowship.

Dennis Donovan

Professor Emeritus, the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences



Dr. Donovan has over 35 years’ experience as a direct service provider, clinical trainer/supervisor, treatment program administrator, and clinical researcher. He served for 25 years as Director of the UW Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute and Adjunct Professor in the Departments of Psychology, Health Services, and Global Health. He also served as Associate Director with UW Center for AIDS Research Behavioral Sciences Core, Principal Investigator of the Pacific Northwest Node of the NIDA National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network, and Co-Director of the Information Dissemination Core and the Pilot Project Core for Native Center for Alcohol Research and Education (NCARE). Prior to moving to the University, he served as Associate and Acting Director of the first Center of Excellence in Substance Abuse Treatment and Education (CESATE) within the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also served as President of the Society of Psychologists in Addictive Behaviors, among other distinctions.



Kevin English

Director, the Albuquerque Area Southwest Tribal Epidemiology Center (AASTEC)

Dr. English is the director of AASTEC, which serves 27 Native American communities in the Southwest. Current AASTEC services are organized around four priority areas— epidemiology, health research, training, and public health practice. He has been working with tribal communities across the country since 1995 as a researcher, public health practitioner and a clinical pharmacist. He received his doctorate in public health from Columbia University in 2013.



Brenna Greenfield (German/Hungarian/Polish/English/Irish)

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Family Medicine and Biobehavioral Health, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus

Brenna Greenfield is a psychologist and addiction researcher who has worked collaboratively with tribes in the Southwest and Midwest to address substance-related health inequities. Her team's work is currently funded by an R61/R33 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse called Anji'bide - Changing our Paths: Well-being and recovery among American Indians with opioid use disorder. When not working, she enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, running, and inline skating.

Dawn Lee



Chief Operating Officer, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community didgʷálic Wellness Center

Dawn Lee is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the didgʷálic Wellness Center. didgʷálic is the only tribally owned outpatient treatment facility that offers fully integrated primary care, substance use counseling, medication, dental care and social services, all under one roof, to adults with substance use and behavioral health disorders. Dawn has been working in the field of substance use disorders since 1999. She is licensed as a Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP) and International Certified Gambling Counselor (ICGC). She has been working in tribal communities since 2004 and has worked for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community for the past 10 years.

In addition to her work as a SUDP, she has developed multiple programs within the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community which has increased her staff from 3 to 99 in 10 years. For her work at didgʷálic her team won the Portland Area Indian Health Service Leadership Award, Recognition of Excellence Award and the Indian Health Service Directors Award.

Anne H. Skinstad



*Clinical Professor, Dept. of Community & Behavioral Health, Univ. of Iowa
Program Director, the National American Indian and Alaska Native Addiction Technology Transfer Center (AI/AN ATTC)
Program Director, the National American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (AI/AN MHTTC)
Program Director, the National American Indian and Alaska Native Prevention Technology Transfer Center (AI/AN PHTTC)*

Dr. Skinstad was the chief psychologist for the first in-patient treatment unit for women with substance use and mental health disorders and their children at the Hjellestad-Clinic in Bergen, Norway. Her research and clinical interests have been on SUD in women with co-occurring mental health disorders. The last 20 year, she has overseen the development of different workforce development initiative in Native communities, as well as training curricula on prevention, treatment and assessment of substance use and mental health disorders with different populations. Furthermore, she has directed the cultural adaptations of different curricula to Native American tribal communities. She received her Ph.D. and Cand.Psychol. degree (equivalent to a Psy.D) from the College of Psychology, University of Bergen in Norway.