



BEST PRACTICES CLEARINGHOUSE

- Lessons from the Field -

Promoting Whole Student Health Through Safe Digital Habits

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET
SPEAKER BIOS

Nicole White

Program Specialist, Office of Safe and Supportive Schools, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

Ms. Nicole White has served in both the private and public sector. In her government role, she has worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education. At the U.S. Department of Education, Ms. White previously functioned as Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement. Ms. White currently holds the position of Program Specialist in the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Supportive Schools working on issues related to school climate, mental health, and community violence interventions.

Dr. Melissa Mercado-Crespo, PhD MSc MA

Lead Behavior Scientist, Team Lead- Youth Violence and Emerging Topics, NCIPC, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Dr. Melissa C. Mercado is a Lead Behavioral Scientist in the Division of Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. As an expert in youth and community violence, and bullying prevention, she is part of the federal inter-agency StopBullying.gov Editorial Board and oversees the CDC Youth Violence Prevention Centers network. Dr. Mercado served in the internationally recognized Epidemic Intelligence Service, leads gaming and online communities research for violence prevention, and recently completed her tenure as an elected member of the CDC Latino/Hispanic Health Work Group Executive Committee.

Dr. Mercado has worked in the non-profit, public, and private sectors as a public health researcher and communicator for 20 years, conducting research on bullying, gaming and online communities, opioids and overdoses, self-harm and suicide, firearm violence, and youth violence. Her research is characterized by an emphasis on community and racial/ethnic minority groups, and has been published in the media, at professional conferences, and high-impact peer review journals. Most recently, Dr. Mercado published an estimate assessment of US parents' understanding about children's bullying, and co-authored a CDC Vital Signs publication, Changes in Firearm Homicide and Suicide Rates — United States, 2019–2020. While serving in CDC's COVID-19 Response, Dr. Mercado led the conceptualization and development of the age-group specific, multi-lingual and resources-rich COVID-19 Parental Resource Kit, to help parents recognize and address children and youth's social, emotional, and mental health challenges during the pandemic.

A native Spanish-speaker from Puerto Rico, Dr. Mercado has 30+ years of multicultural experience including deployments during local, national and international public health emergencies. Dr. Mercado was recognized as a 2021 Outstanding Alumni at the University of South Florida College of Public Health, where she earned her PhD in Public Health (Community and Family Health / Maternal and Child Health) degree. She also holds two master's degrees in epidemiology and communications.

Tyiesha Short

Associate Director of Science and Policy, Office of the Surgeon General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)



Ms. Tyiesha Short is an Associate Director of Science and Policy in the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this role, she provides strategic counsel and leadership for ensuring the evidence base for the Surgeon General's priority areas, with a particular focus on youth mental health. This includes leading and supporting scientific documents; building strategic partnerships; and translating reliable scientific information into product and policy development. Ms. Short has worked in local and national public health and is committed to advancing equitable, evidence-based health policy and programming, with an emphasis on maternal and child health. Prior to joining OSG, Ms. Short served as a Health Scientist Fellow within the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) where she led and conducted research to prevent and identify causes of birth defects. She has also worked in the nonprofit sector evaluating teen pregnancy and STI prevention programs and advocating for more equitable reproductive health care. Ms. Short received her Master of Public Health from Emory University.

Dr. Jenny Radesky

Co-Medical Director, Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Health; Director, Division of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Michigan Medical School, MI



Dr. Radesky is Director of the Division of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Michigan Medical School. Her research examines the use of mobile and interactive technology by parents and young children and how this relates to child self-regulation and parent-child interaction. Clinically, her work focuses on autism, ADHD, and advocacy. She has authored American Academy of Pediatrics policy statements on digital media use in early childhood including Media and Young Minds and Digital Advertising to Children. She has two children, 9 and 13 years old, who keep her laughing and humble about media use! Dr. Radesky is excited to bring together her clinical, research, and knowledge experience to the Center's work. You can follow her on Twitter @jennyradesky.

Tamara Sobel, J.D., C.S.E.

National Advisor, Health & Media Literacy, Media Literacy Now; Founder, Girls, Women + Media Project, MA



Ms. Tamara Sobel is a media literacy and digital wellness advocate and content expert. She is the National Advisor on Health & Media Literacy at Media Literacy Now where she helped create and currently helps implement Media Literacy Now's Digital Wellness Project. Previously she served as MA Director of Legislation & Policy for Media Literacy Now.

She is a former public interest attorney and certified health & sexuality educator, and is the Founder of the Girls, Women + Media Project (2000), one of the earliest organizations advocating for increased awareness and activism around images of girls and women in the media.

She has been a presenter at conferences throughout the U.S., has been quoted in major media outlets, and publishes an online column on "Healthy Minds & Bodies in the Digital Age" for Psychology Today.

William Wright III

School Counselor, Sherwood Acres Elementary School, Dougherty County School System, GA

Bio and picture coming soon.