



**BEST PRACTICES
CLEARINGHOUSE**

- Lessons from the Field -

Understanding Access and Promoting Safety: Youth and Online Drugs

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET
SPEAKER BIOS

Elyse Robertson

Federal Program Officer, Office of Safe and Supportive Schools, U.S. Department of Education



Ms. Elyse Robertson serves in the Office of Safe and Supportive Schools in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. She focuses on school climate, school safety and health, well-rounded education, and youth and young adult drug prevention. Since 2016, she has worked on a variety of grant programs within the Department, including the Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program, the Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk Program, and the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program. Ms. Robertson began her career as an elementary school teacher in Florida and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer. She holds a Masters in Teacher Leadership with a focus in Global, Comparative and International Education, and a Bachelors in Exceptional Student Education from the University of Central Florida.

Kemp Chester

Senior Advisor to the Director of National Drug Control Policy



Mr. Kemp L. Chester is the Senior Advisor to the Director of National Drug Control Policy. In this capacity he is the principal advisor to the Director on shaping policy designed to reduce the availability of all illicit or illegally trafficked drugs and their precursor chemicals into the United States by disrupting their global supply chain. Mr. Chester works closely with the National Security Council and senior White House officials to manage relationships with foreign partners, the international community, the Congress, and a network of partnerships across the federal government focused on addressing the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. Mr. Chester also leads the United States' counternarcotics relationships with the Peoples Republic of China and the Republic of India, and from 2021-2022 he served as the Executive Director of the bipartisan Commission on Combatting Synthetic Opioids Trafficking.

Mr. Chester was previously an Assistant Director and Chief of the National Opioids and Synthetics Coordination Group within the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Prior to joining the Senior Executive Service and the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Mr. Chester was the Director of National Security and Intelligence for a private sector consulting firm in the Washington, D.C. area, managing a multimillion-dollar program to bring state of the art information sharing and safeguarding technologies to the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Chester previously served as the Chief of the Office of Counternarcotics Worldwide at the Defense Intelligence Agency where he was responsible for intelligence collection and analysis on global narcotics issues, and the management of all intelligence analysis in support of Department of Defense counternarcotics activities.

During a 27-year career as a U.S. Army Officer, Mr. Chester served in a number of command and staff positions in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East, including combat service in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom. During his two tours in Iraq he served as a battalion operations officer in the 3rd Infantry Division and a strategic planner for coalition forces in Iraq, and during his time in Afghanistan then-Colonel Chester served as the Chief of the Ministry of the Interior Intelligence Advisory Team for the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, where he designed and built an enduring police intelligence capability for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and served as the mentor and senior advisor to Afghanistan's Director of Police Intelligence.

Mr. Chester holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from The Citadel, a Master of Arts in International Relations from the University of South Carolina, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, a Master of Military Arts and Sciences from the School for Advanced Military Studies, and a Master of Arts in National Strategy from the National War College.

Helen Hernandez

Assistant Director of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, ONDCP



Ms. Helen Hernandez currently serves as the Assistant Director of the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program in the Executive Office of the President (EOP) at the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

Ms. Hernandez oversees the Nation's leading effort to mobilize communities to prevent youth substance use. The philosophy behind the DFC Program is that local drug problems require local solutions. The DFC Program provides funding to community-based coalitions that organize to prevent youth substance use. The DFC program serves approximately 67 million individuals to include 2.7 million middle school youth and 3.8 million high school youth.

As the Administrator of the DFC Program, Ms. Hernandez, manages the program's \$101 million dollar budget, manages the grant making process, oversees the National Cross site Evaluation of this program, and is responsible for key trainings and events for the DFC Program.

In 2010, Ms. Hernandez enlisted in the U.S. Public Health Service and was stationed at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention as a Public Health Advisor for the DFC Program until 2013.

Prior to joining the Federal government, Ms. Hernandez served as a Health Educator with the Miami-Dade Area Health Education Center as a breast cancer awareness and prevention advocate, where she delivered over 300 bilingual trainings to a primarily youth-based audience.

Ms. Hernandez earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Education, from the University of Florida, and received her Master's in Public Health with a concentration in Community Health from Florida International University.

Michael Rich

Director and Founder, Boston Children's Digital Wellness Lab, MA



Dr. Michael Rich, MD, MPH is recognized globally for his acclaimed work as a pediatrician, child health researcher, and children's media specialist. He is the Founder and Director of the Digital Wellness Lab which is on a mission to understand and promote positive and healthy digital media experiences for young people, from birth through young adulthood.

Dr. Rich is also the Founder and Co-Director of the Clinic for Interactive Media and Internet Disorders (CIMAID), the first evidence-based clinical program designed to address Problematic Interactive Media Use (PIMU) in children, adolescents, and young adults. Using a multidisciplinary approach, Dr. Rich works with young people and their families to help them to adopt and sustain healthy approaches to engaging with interactive media and technology.

More than 50 peer-reviewed research papers, and 40 book chapters, research reports, and pediatric practice policies have been authored by Dr. Rich. He has written policy statements on media and child health for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and testified on the scientific findings about media effects on child development and health to state legislatures, the National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Congress. As "the Mediatrixian", Dr. Rich recently released *The Mediatrixian's Guide: A Joyful Approach to Raising Healthy, Smart, Kind Kids in a Screen-Saturated World*, a science-backed approach to give parents the confidence they need to raise a child well (and to raise a well child) in the digital age.

Dr. Rich received his MD from Harvard Medical School and his MPH from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He completed his internship, residency, and fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. Dr. Rich is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Society for Adolescent Medicine and is board certified in Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine.

Marci Hertz

Associate Director for Program Implementation, Division of Overdose Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Ms. Hertz has worked for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) since 2003, serving as a Lead Health Scientist in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and in the Division of Adolescent and School Health. She is currently the Associate Director for Program Implementation in the Division of Overdose Prevention. In this role, she provides oversight to all Division programmatic efforts, including Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) State, OD2A: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities (LOCAL), and the Drug Free Community coalitions. Previously, she led the evaluation of an observational cohort study of Medication for Opioid Use Disorder; the program evaluation of the Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program; and the implementation of the STRYVE program (Striving to Prevent Youth Violence Everywhere). Prior to her work at CDC, Ms. Hertz was the Associate Director of Violence Prevention Programs at the Harvard School Public Health. Ms. Hertz received her B.A. in Psychology from Emory University and a master's degree in Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Xinyi Jiang

Research Health Scientist, Division of Overdose Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Dr. Xinyi Jiang, PhD, MS, is a research health scientist at the Applied Research, Evaluation and Integration team in the Division of Overdose Prevention, CDC. Her work at CDC has been focused on individuals who use illicit opioids and the effectiveness of treatments for substance use disorders. She also examines policies related to overdose prevention such as prescribing guidelines, prescribing duration/dosage restriction, continuing education requirements for prescribers, clinical decision support for prescribing (PDMP, clinical decision tool), expanding access to naloxone, etc.

Dr. Jiang earned her PhD and MS in Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy from the University of Florida.

Kristine Meurer

Executive Director, Student, Family, and Community Supports Division, Albuquerque Public Schools, NM



Dr. Kristine Meurer, Ph.D., is the Executive Director for the Student Family and Community Supports Division, Albuquerque Public Schools. Dr. Meurer has over 37 year experience in education and health promotion. She has been in her current roll with APS for 2 year. However, she was working as a health educator and athletic trainer in APS in the 1980s. Prior to coming to APS, Dr. Meurer was with the Public Education Department for 22 years. Dr. Meurer has served on numerous local, state and national committees and has presented at the local, state and national levels. She completed both her undergraduate and graduate work at Eastern Michigan University, and completed her Ph.D. in Health Promotion at the University of New Mexico in Spring1995.

Carlos Briano

Public Information Officer, Drug Enforcement Administration, El Paso Division, NM & West TX



Mr. Carlos Briano is the Public Information Officer for the Drug Enforcement Administration's El Paso Division, which covers West Texas and New Mexico. Briano is a former journalism teacher, and in 2013, he was named a finalist for Texas Teacher of the Year. He was given the Rising Star Award by the Journalism Education Association in 2011.

Michelle Rincon

Public Information Officer, Drug Enforcement Administration, El Paso Division, NM & West TX



Ms. Michelle Rincon is the Community Outreach Specialist for the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) El Paso Division, where she takes responsibility for outreach in schools, community organizations, state groups, and the general public in the state of New Mexico and the 17 counties of West Texas. She communicates DEA's drug prevention messaging, awareness, and DEA's One Pill Can Kill campaign through her primary role and the DEA Operation Engage program.

Substance misuse awareness, knowledge, and substance use prevention is important to Ms. Rincon. She tries to share these messages and knowledge as much as possible throughout her work.

Ms. Rincon holds a Master's in Public Health with a focus in substance use prevention in both young teens and adults, mental health awareness, and U.S. Border Health. She is also a Certified Health Education Specialist. As a Community Outreach Specialist for the DEA, she is passionate about empowering communities with prevention focused messages and knowledge.

Ryan Sibbald

Assistant Special Agency in Charge, Special Operations Division, Pharmaceutical, Chemical and Internet Investigations Section, Drug Enforcement Administration



With close to 20 years as a Special Agent Criminal Investigator with the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Mr. Ryan Sibbald has completed assignments in Southern California, Colombia South America, Northern California where he also led a tactical Special Response Team and is now assigned to DEA headquarters role in the Washington DC area. Upon arriving to a headquarters assignment, Mr. Sibbald was assigned to the Office of Investigative Technology charged with providing domestic and foreign investigative personnel with timely and relevant technological solutions to support their investigations. Mr. Sibbald is currently assigned to DEA's Special Operations Division, a global operations and information sharing center with over 34 agencies represented and collectively working together to combat illicit drug trade and transnational crime. The section Mr. Sibbald leads focuses on the domestic epidemic of illegal synthetic opioids, targeting organizations responsible for the precursor chemicals and also is the forward-facing element in direct operational support of global cyber investigations and interface with social media platforms being exploited by bad actors in the drug sales community.

Kyle Rau

Program Manager, Dark Web and Online Investigations Program, U.S. Postal Inspection Service



Mr. Kyle Rau holds a bachelor's degree with majors in Criminal Justice and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh. Mr. Rau has over 20 years of law enforcement experience and is currently employed as a US Postal Inspector/Program Manager overseeing the agencies dark web program. Prior to his current employment, he was a Detective with the City of Appleton Police Department in Wisconsin. While at the Appleton Police Department, he specialized in crimes against children, cyber investigations, narcotics, and forensic analysis of computer and digital devices. Mr. Rau has

specialized in the area of Dark Web and Virtual Currency investigations since early 2013 and has become a subject matter expert in the area of analysis of Virtual Currencies. Mr. Rau has developed and has conducted training for local, state, and federal agencies in the area of Dark Web investigations and Virtual Currencies.

Lisa Sedillo-White

Deputy County Manager, Bernalillo County, NM



Ms. Lisa Sedillo-White is the Bernalillo County Deputy County Manager for General Services Division and has been employed with Bernalillo County for approximately 26 years. She oversees a variety of internal services departments/programs/sections and countywide initiatives including the KeepNMAlive Campaign and website, Fentanyl Education and Awareness, Community Outreach, Marketing and the Lived experience family group. She also oversees several departments including customer service, constituent and support services department, contact center, procurement and business services department, accounts payable, risk management departments and several other departments and sections.