

## 2024 Council on Chemical Abuse Annual Conference Presenter Bios

### **Keynote Speaker – Kym Laube, Hugs Inc**

Kym Laube is the Executive Director of Human Understanding Growth Services, Inc., HUGS, Inc., located in Westhampton Beach, NY. In this position, she brings over 33 years of substance misuse prevention knowledge and expertise. Since she took the role of Executive Director in 2002, she has been leading the organization to provide a full array of multidimensional prevention services and recovery supports, all while ensuring she is advocating for the field all along the continuum of care.

Kym is a national trainer and speaker, working with notable leaders in prevention including CADCA, various state associations and corporate businesses. Having participated in the HUGS, Inc. Teen Institute program in 1986 as a high school student, Kym understands firsthand, the profound impact, lifelong influence and workforce development the Teen Institute program provides to young people. From student leader to Executive Director in 2002, Kym's mission has been to empower others to seek their full potential and become agents of change in the world. Kym offers dynamic, passionate and interactive keynotes, trainings and workshops for large and small groups with an uncanny ability to talk with and not at people.

Annually, Kym presents to over 25,000 individuals, young and old across our great country. Kym's unwavering commitment to improving the lives of young people extends beyond her executive office and can be seen in the many leadership roles she holds. She is active on various local, state and national boards and task forces. She served on the NYS Governors Opiate Task Force creating statewide policy change in prescribing laws, increased treatment stays and policy and practice to help NY families to find hope and heal. Most notable is her personal recovery and commitment to push individuals to make the space better wherever they are. Her greatest joy is watching her two adult sons create live a life of choice as they forge their own course. She lives in Westhampton Beach with her husband, and way too many dogs.

### **Panel Discussion Moderator – Ramona Palmerio-Roberts, PsyD.**

Dr. Ramona Palmerio-Roberts is the Senior Executive Director of the Regional Outpatient Services, overseeing clinical and administrative operations and guiding the development and delivery of exceptional outpatient services in the regional offices located in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania; Atlanta, Georgia; and Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania. Dr. Roberts' expertise, passion, and commitment provide visionary leadership to the Caron team, advancing the quality of treatment and supporting recovery for life.

Prior to taking on this position in 2023, Dr. Roberts served for two years as the executive director of Caron Outpatient Treatment Center located where she was integral in expanding clinical capacity through advanced group and trauma training for all clinical staff, initiating a master's level internship program and overseeing renovations to accommodate growth in services, staff and clientele. Before that, she was the Supervisor for Trauma Services and Staff Psychologist at Caron's main residential campus. Dr. Roberts is an author, trainer and has treated and educated patients with co-occurring addiction and trauma histories both individually and in group settings.

## About our Workshop Presenters:

### **Jeff Hanley, Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA)**

Jeff Hanley currently serves as the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance, a leading statewide nonprofit dedicated to supporting prevention professionals in addressing substance misuse and the associated risk related behaviors. After graduating from the University of Mount Union, Jeff's career in the nonprofit sector began with the American Red Cross. He then spent 14 years at the Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission, working as a prevention specialist and supervisor.

Following his tenure in Mercer County, Jeff and his wife, Carrie, relocated to Colorado. There, Jeff assumed the role of Special Projects Administrator of Opioid Programs at the Jefferson County Public Health Department, where his focus encompassed Provider Education Programming and Coalition Development.

### **Diana Santiago, LCSW, CAADC, CCS**

Diana Santiago is the Clinical Supervisor in the Older Adult Program at Caron, providing clinical oversight for the program. She also provides individual, group, and family therapy, as well as case management services.

Diana has worked at Caron as a therapist since 2013 in the Women's Program, Men's Program, and the Relapse Program, moving into her current role on the Older Adult Program in 2015. Her compassion, knowledge of different therapeutic styles, and ability to challenge patients and families are the foundation of her work. Prior to Caron, Diana provided therapy at an outpatient treatment center. She has also worked in child protective services and worked with juvenile males with mental health issues and sexually reactive behaviors at a residential treatment program.

She is a licensed clinical social worker through the Pennsylvania State Board of Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors. She is credentialed as a

Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor and Certified Clinical Supervisor, through the Pennsylvania Certification Board. Diana earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in psychology from Millersville University and her Master of Social Work Degree from Kutztown University.

### **Phyllis Law, Sr. Systems Change Specialist - EPIS, Penn State University**

Phyllis Law has spent the past 30 years working to better the lives of youth and families in Florida and Pennsylvania. She has worked for the past 14 years at the Penn State University Prevention Research Center's Evidence-based Prevention and Intervention Support (EPIS) project as a part-time Senior Systems Change Specialist, where she has worked to advance the PA Youth Survey, facilitate several advisory groups, including the Cross-Systems Prevention Network, and assisted with local coalition building efforts.

In addition, Phyllis is the Owner/Principal Consultant with Strategic Solutions for Schools & Communities Consulting (3S2C), providing a wide range of social service strategic planning consultation services. She works directly with youth-serving state and county agencies using a public health approach to address the causes of violence, delinquency, substance misuse, and mental health issues. Phyllis is focused on activating organizational change through data-driven decision-making. She is skilled in leading large and small organizations through strategic planning to achieve effective system change. She has led strategic planning and systems change with education, juvenile justice, human services, local community coalitions, and substance abuse prevention organizations.

### **Alise Barr - EPIS, Penn State University**

Alise is the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) Support and Development Specialist responsible for the ongoing utilization of the Pennsylvania Youth Survey. She works in coordination with the PAYS Advisory Group and a wide range of stakeholders in Pennsylvania to develop educational resources for using PAYS data at the local community level. These stakeholders include state agency representatives, coalition leaders, survey support teams, social service organizations, and school district representatives.

Alise is a graduate of Lock Haven University with a degree in Education. She has over 20 years of experience in Pennsylvania and has worked across the state. Alise's experience includes working as a mental health delegate, a community liaison with psychiatric hospitals, coordinating and hosting community events, and being invested in community and state programming to improve outcomes for youth and families. She has served on numerous community boards, including a Communities that Care prevention board.

### **Jami Geist - Project Manager, Soft Landing Program at Reading Hospital**

Jami has a BA in Addiction Studies from Alvernia University and an M.Ed in School Counseling from Kutztown University. Jami started her career at the Reading Hospital Drug and Alcohol

Center, leaving to manage Y-Haven, a housing program for women with children at the YMCA. She worked for over 20 years in transitional and recovery housing at the YMCA of Reading before moving to her current position at the Reading Hospital.

**Dr. Linda Bloom - MD, FAAP, Section Chief Pediatric Hospitalists at Reading Hospital.**

Dr. Bloom completed her pediatric residency from 2008-2011 and served in the Chief Resident position from 2011-2012. Dr. Bloom holds a General Pediatric Board Certification and a Pediatric Hospital Medicine Board Certification. Dr. Bloom was an integral part of the transition to the Eat, Sleep, Console program at Reading Hospital.

**Chelsie Shifflett - DNP, RN, NPD-BC, RNC-NIC, C-ELBW, Nursing Professional Development Practitioner for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Pediatrics at Reading Hospital.**

Chelsie began her career as a clinical nurse in the NICU where she completed an Evidence-Based Practice project relating to care of the neonate experiencing withdrawal. Chelsie worked with the interdisciplinary team to train the nursing staff on use of Eat, Sleep, Console and completes prenatal education for families experiencing Substance Use Disorder.