Speaker Biographies

Micheal Collins’ experience includes a variety of community and institutional experience ranging from entry level to executive. During his 32 year career in probation, he served as director of juvenile supervision, Orange County’ 8% program, Training and Research Director, and as the department’s EBP Implementation project manager.

Firmly committed to the development of corrections supervisors, and with the support of the National Institute of Corrections and the Crime and Justice Institute, Mr. Collins served on the national advisory group for the Supervisor’s Leadership Academy, helped guide curriculum creation, implemented the curriculum and then developed a regional partnership in Southern California. After several Academies in Southern California were completed, Mr. Collins assisted with the transfer of administrative responsibilities for the Academy as the SLA expanded to a state-wide focus under the guidance of the Crime and Justice Institute. He assisted as oversight transitioned to the Chief Probation Officers of California, and continues to serve in an advisory capacity and as a facilitator throughout the state.

Mr. Collins holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. He has trained for a variety of organizations including University of California, Coastline Community Colleges, Chief Probation Officers of California, and private training providers working with probation departments. He also worked with the California Board of State and Community Corrections, coordinating county jail construction projects. After leaving Sacramento, he joined Crime and Justice Institute as a Network Associate, assisting corrections agencies across the country in creating environments supporting progressive advancement of EBP related change.

Kristy Pierce Danford provides capacity-building technical assistance, coaching, and training on a variety of topics related to reducing recidivism and improving public safety. Ms. Danford has extensive experience in data-driven policy analysis and reform, and the advancement of
evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism. Ms. Danford has worked in California with a
diverse audience of stakeholders to assist counties in safely reducing reliance on prisons and
building local capacity. Highlights of this work include: curriculum design and content
management for the Joint Training Partnership; development and management of the
Supervisors Leadership Academy; development of a pretrial toolkit; and analysis of various
realignment strategies.

Ms. Danford is well-versed in conducting research, process facilitation, and developing training
curricula that is timely and on the cutting-edge of what matters to justice stakeholders. She is a
highly regarded trainer and process facilitator. She regularly offers training in the integrated
model and implementation of evidence-based practices for reducing recidivism, quality
assurance, continuous quality improvement and project management. In addition, she holds
trainer certification by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute in Effective Practices in
Corrections Settings and Core Correctional Practices. Throughout her career, Ms. Pierce
Danford has developed a variety of tools and techniques to build capacity of individuals,
agencies and systems to reduce the risk of reoffending. She has also supported the
development and passage of landmark criminal justice reform legislation in several states.

Prior to joining CJJ, Ms. Danford served the Connecticut Judicial Branch in a variety of
positions. Notably, she led an innovative statewide effort to enhance the Division’s ability to
use empirical evidence to support data-driven decision making through a collaborative effort
among community-based providers, pretrial, family, adult and juvenile services. This system
included electronically linking assessment, supervision, treatment and arrest data to assess
effectiveness. She also served as a Probation and Parole Agent for the state of South
Carolina. Ms. Danford received her Master of Public Administration with a concentration in
Urban Affairs from the College of Charleston. She also holds a graduate certificate in Public and
Nonprofit administration from the University of Connecticut.