

Act Recovery Conference Speakers – Alphabetical order listing

Michael Armand has been a peer support specialist since the spring of 2012. He helped develop the THRIVE program while working at Terry Reilly Health in Boise. Michael states that prior to becoming a certified peer specialist, “I was living at the Boise Rescue Mission, not having much direction for my life.” A counselor with Access Behavioral Health and a peer support specialist at Health and Welfare encouraged Michael to pursue becoming a peer specialist. Once certified, he started a peer support group at Access Behavioral Health which met weekly to discuss various topics in regards to good mental health and recovery of diagnosis. According to Michael, “Being a peer support specialist has been very rewarding:

- 1) Has helped with my own recovery
- 2) Gives me a sense of purpose and self-worth
- 3) Creates hopes, dreams, and possibilities

Life continues to get better and I am convinced that being a peer specialist has played a very big part in that.”

G. Richard Bevan is a District Judge serving in Idaho’s Fifth Judicial District, with chambers in Twin Falls, Idaho. Judge Bevan was born and raised in Twin Falls, graduating from Twin Falls High School in 1977. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from BYU, graduating in 1987 from BYU’s J. Reuben Clark Law School. Judge Bevan was admitted to the Idaho State Bar that same year.

Judge Bevan was a practicing attorney in Twin Falls for over sixteen years before his appointment to the bench by Governor Dirk Kempthorne in November 2003. He also served as Twin Falls County Prosecutor from 1993 to 1997. Judge Bevan is a past-president of the Fifth District Bar Association and he served on several statewide law-related committees. Judge Bevan was certified as a family and civil mediator in 1999, successfully mediating over 200 cases before becoming a judge.

Judge Bevan is the presiding judge of the Fifth Judicial District Mental Health Court. In addition, Judge Bevan presently serves on the Idaho Supreme Court Administrative Conference, on the Idaho Supreme Court’s Criminal Rules Committee, and the Idaho State Drug and Mental Health Court Coordinating Committee. Judge Bevan was recently elected to a second term as the Administrative District Judge for Idaho’s Fifth Judicial District.

Judge Bevan has been involved in youth programs in Twin Falls for years. He is a past president and board member of the Magic Valley YMCA and the CARES advisory board, which is a commission designed to assist child-victims of abuse or neglect in the Magic Valley.

Judge Bevan makes his home in Twin Falls with his wife, Pam, and his daughter, Rachel. Two sons, Ryan and Jason, and two daughters, Sarah and Kailee have graduated high school and are all in various stages of adult life. Judge Bevan and Pam are the proud grandparents of five.

Kathy Blamires credentials include: Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor (CADC); Certified Peer Support Specialist, Recovering Addict and Recovery Coach. Kathy holds Associates Degrees in Addictions Counseling, Human Services and Liberal Arts, but credits the school of hard-knocks for her most memorable and instructional learning experiences. My life is my family, gardening, house plants and

"tree-hugger," as defined by my children. I could also be identified as, "The crazy cat lady." My driving belief--we (as people with addiction and mental health diagnoses) do recover and become responsible members of society.

Carolyn Corbett is board certified as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) for the treatment of children, adolescents and adults. She currently works PT for the DHW Region IV Adult Mental Health Clinic, and contracts to provide psychiatric coverage to the Ada County Jail as well as a community based clinic, in Boise. Carolyn received her Post-Masters Certificate NP from Rush University in Chicago in 2009, following a long management career that included 21 years of senior management, most recently as Vice President Patient Care Services and CNO for Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center.

Prior to her arrival in Boise; Carolyn served 12 years as Vice President and CNO for Robert Packer Hospital and later Senior Vice President Patient Care Services, for Guthrie Healthcare System in northeastern Pennsylvania. As Senior Vice President, she led the development of their quality outcomes and care management system. Carolyn has a strong interest in change leadership, organizational and professional development. She developed a private practice in executive coaching and leadership development and worked with other executive coaches in New York's southern tier to deliver services to both health care and other industry clients.

Carolyn started her nursing career at St. Louis Children's Hospital after graduating from Jewish Hospital's Diploma program in St. Louis, MO. She worked as a staff nurse and then nurse manager for the Neurology/Neurosurgery and the Psychiatry Units while she earned her BSN and MSN from St. Louis University. Carolyn later earned an MBA from State University of New York, Binghamton and then graduated from Corporate Coach University, International's business coaching program. She has held ANCC certification in Nursing Administration, Advanced (CNAA-BC), and board certification as a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

One of Carolyn's enduring interests is wildlife conservation and viewing. For her most recent wildlife viewing trip, she traveled to Churchill, Manitoba to see the polar bears that gather on the edge of Hudson Bay, waiting for the ice to freeze.

Sherrie Davis is a masters level profession who has worked in the fields of mental health and corrections for a total of twenty three years. She has presented on the topic of women offenders at numerous conferences including the National Conference of Adult and Female Offenders. She was also an adjunct professor at Boise State University for five years where her focus was on Women in the Criminal Justice System.

While not working, Sherrie enjoys her re-doing furniture, gardening and reading. However, the highlight of her life has been her many children. Sherrie has one biological son, Andrew who is 19 and starting his sophomore year of college. In the past five years, Sherrie has fostered thirty one children.

Emilie Jackson-Edney is a community activist who envisions a world that honors diversity, fosters mutual respect, and celebrates complete equality. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Pride Foundation headquartered in Seattle, which is a donor-supported community foundation that supports transformative philanthropy through scholarships, grants, advocacy, and community leadership. She serves as co-chair for the “Add The Words, Idaho” PAC, which works diligently to add sexual orientation and gender identity anti-discrimination protections to Idaho's Human Rights Act and to local municipal Ordinances.

Emilie likens her current role as a human and civil rights advocate and activist, lobbyist, educator and community volunteer to the civil engineering design and construction management profession she retired from in 2005. She says the work she does today will build those bridges of hope, and nurture our youth to become future leaders and role models. She states, “It is imperative that people like me help others to overcome their prejudices and bigotries so that legitimate progress toward understanding, acceptance, mutual respect and equality may become a genuine reality instead of just a hopeful dream.”

Brian Frasure has had a Social Work career full of diverse experiences. He initially worked on the original Assertive Community Treatment Team in Boise until transferring to the Crisis Team. While in Graduate School he completed his internship at the New Mexico State Hospital in Las Vegas New Mexico; his credentials include LMSW. Following graduation he worked at Intermountain Hospital as the Director of the Admissions Unit. He has also been employed by Mountain West Clinical Trials, conducting phase 3 and 4 clinical trials on new psychotropic medications. He later returned to the Department of Health and Welfare in Region III as a clinician on the Crisis Team and is currently the Clinical Supervisor of the Assertive Community Treatment Program and the Mental Health Court Program in Region III.

Brian enjoys his time away from work with his family and friends by trying to find new and exciting adventures. He likes to camp and ride 4 wheelers with his family and is actively involved in the Boise City Recreation Softball League by playing with his favorite team the RABID SQUIRRELS who took 2nd place in their league this year.

Cecil Gailey is a Client Services Tech\ Peer Specialist for Region 5 Adult Mental Health. He was a PATH Peer Specialist and Trainer, Peer Specialist Project for Mountain States Group. Cecil has expertise as a trainer and facilitator including: Idaho State Certified Peer Specialist, Trained WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) facilitator, CBT co-facilitator, and Trainer for Idaho State Peer Specialist certification,. He is a member of regional CIT (Crisis Intervention Team board, member of the Hub QMT (Quality Management Team), member of the statewide MDT (Multiple Disciplinary Team). In the world of Peer Support mega stars known by a single name, if the name is “Cecil”, more often than not, the buzz is about Cecil Gailey.

Noel Gardner has a private medical practice in Clinical and Forensic Psychiatry in Salt Lake City, Utah and serves as Medical Director and Director of Clinical Education for the Polizzi Clinic (free clinic for underserved populations). He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and of Family and Preventative Medicine at the University of Utah. His varied career has combined academia and professional practice with consultation, advisory board member and lecturer for a variety of

pharmaceutical companies, testimony as expert witness in a variety of civil and criminal cases, clinical research, and professional leader on a various committees. He is passionate about the sport of baseball.

Miranda Hedges has specialized in hospice care for five years. She has helped care for over 800 people at the end of life and provided grief support to nearly all of their families through the dying process and post death. She holds a LSW credential.

Miranda grew up in WA state and enjoys enjoy sports especially softball. She also loves music.

Kent Ireton has worked in the field of vocational rehabilitation and disability services for over 25 years. He has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Boise State University and a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from University of Alaska, Anchorage. He holds the credential of certified rehabilitation counselor. Kent started his career with the Idaho Commission for the Blind as a counselor and later worked as a program coordinator. He then moved to Alaska and worked for the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation as a vocational rehabilitation counselor and later as a regional manager. Kent returned to Idaho in 2005 and worked as branch manager for SL Start, a developmental disability agency, in Twin Falls. In 2007 he returned to his passion for vocational rehabilitation, working a counselor with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in Twin Falls. He has since served as regional manager in IDVR Region 4 for the past three years. Kent also served the State as a commissioner with the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired from 2008-2012.

Kent lives in Twin Falls with his wife Dawna and their daughter Amanda, who is a senior at Twin Falls High School. Kent and his family enjoy the great outdoors of Idaho including camping, hiking, fishing and tackling some of our highest mountain peaks like Mount Borah. He is an avid distance runner and is currently training for the Salmon marathon in September of this year

Amy Jeppesen was born and raised in Idaho. She received her Master's in Social Work from Brigham Young University and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Advanced Certified Alcohol/Drug Counselor (ACADC). Amy has expertise working with teens, adults, families and couples. She has experience working in Wilderness, Residential and Outpatient settings. Amy specializes in working with trauma, addiction, eating disorders, co-occurring disorders, posttraumatic stress, co-dependency, anxiety and depression. She utilizes a number of treatment modalities to create a client centered approach. Amy is known to help clients feel at ease with her sense of humor and humanistic approach. Amy has been trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, Advanced Motivational Interviewing Skills, Cognitive Self Change and as a Clinical Supervisor. In her professional career she has worked and presented on a national level for creating higher standards of care and the use of innovative therapeutic techniques. Amy has worked as a Clinical Director and an Executive Director managing multiple facilities. Currently Amy is the Executive Director and Owner of Recovery 4 Life and has enjoyed working closely with her staff to provide quality substance abuse treatment in Boise. In her free time Amy enjoys cycling, boating and woodworking.

Ann Kirkwood specializes in stigma studies around children's mental health and suicide prevention. She received her master's degree from Boise State University with an emphasis on social marketing and

reducing stigma. She is a winner of a 2000 International George Peabody Award for excellence in broadcasting and the 2009 SAMHSA VOICE Award for her work in reducing stigma. She taught classes for 13 years addressing stigma as a barrier to good mental health and speaks nationally on the origins of stigma and methods to address it. She also served as director for Idaho's Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act youth suicide prevention project from 2006-2013. She serves on the Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline Advisory Council and the Council for Suicide Prevention. Ann is a member of the national subcommittee for the Lifeline network of suicide hotlines. She served on the national steering committee for the SAMHSA Resource Center to Address Discrimination and Stigma Associated with Mental Illness. Ann is currently a Grants Specialist for St. Alphonsus Health System & Affiliate Faculty for Idaho State University at their Meridian campus.

Lisa Koller credits participation in Mental Health court as the means that helped her discover her ability to learn and help others with addiction and mental health recovery. In January of 2011, she graduated from Mental Health Court. By May of 2011, she completed Peer Specialist Training and became a Peer Support Specialist. Lisa views her work as a privilege. She facilitates groups and to help one on one with building relationships and achieving goals. Lisa is enthusiastic about her vocation, "The Peer Specialist program works. It truly does! It helped in my life and I truly know that it touches others as well."

Mary Beth Kraemer, LSW, CADC graduated from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa in 1985 with a bachelor's in Social Work and Biology and started her career in substance abuse treatment in Elkhart, Indiana. In 1987, she moved to Burley, Idaho to work on the Child Protection team for the Department of Health and Welfare as an investigator and later treatment worker. Kraemer found her niche working for Adult Mental Health in January of 1992; she's been happily helping serve this population since. She works from both the Burley and Twin Falls offices of Behavioral Health doing PSR services, planning discharge for all of the Region 5 State Hospital South Discharges, and co-facilitating the Relapse Prevention and Co-occurring groups. Kraemer also holds LSW and CADC credentials. I love what I do and have great faith in the resiliency of our clients and their ability to maintain recovery. She has two grown children and a wonderful husband and loves singing (which her cubical mates can attest to!). She sings in the chancel choir and praise band at her church and sees this as her passion.

Ellie Merrick, LCSW received Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Philosophy from Northwest Nazarene University in 1998 and her Masters in Social Work from Boise State University in 2007. Prior to her social work education, she worked in direct care and public affairs and as an organizer and lobbyist in multiple non-profit progressive, human rights organizations—The Refugee Center, the ACLU and Planned Parenthood of Idaho. Mental health care soon became a focus during her internships at El-Ada Community Action and the Mobile Crisis Unit. She now works at The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Region IV Adult Mental Health as a mental health clinician. She has performed diagnostic mental health evaluations in forensic settings for persons convicted of a crime and awaiting sentencing and currently supervises this assessment process. She is a designated examiner and a Team Lead on the Mobile Crisis Unit; her primary work is diagnostic in nature and includes assessing clients who are suicidal, homicidal, or gravely disabled due to mental illness as well as community crisis response and evaluation, involuntary commitment processes and the MCU crisis hotline.

Cynthia Miller has worked as a psychiatric nurse for 28 years. Her experience has crossed the full continuum of psychiatric services in administrative, supervisory and clinical positions. Much of her career has been devoted to the development and management of clinical programming that serves a co-occurring population. In addition, she has participated in the opening of three behavioral health facilities providing services to adult and adolescent clients as the Director of Clinical Services and Chief Operations Officer.

She has consulted with multiple private psychiatric hospital corporations assisting with accreditation surveys. She serves on the Boise State University Nursing Department Advisory Board and as a preceptor and clinical supervisor. She was an editor and author of the psycho-educational resource Team Solutions and Solutions for Wellness. This psycho-educational curriculum was recently approved for admission to the SAMHSA's Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices.

Ms. Miller currently practices in Boise, Idaho, and is the Program Manager for Allumbaugh House, a publically funded hospital diversion unit providing medically managed detoxification and mental health crisis services.

Libertie Potts is a recovery coach, a peer support specialist, and a graduate of the Wood Pilot Project, a prison diversion program. She graduated sanction free on February 23, 2011 and was hired to be part of the staff in April of 2013. She's also trained in WRAP (wellness recover action plan) and MRT (moral recognition therapy).

The Wood Pilot Project is unique in the way that it encourages peer support and mentoring. Libertie discovered her talent for mentoring through the project. She combines humor, a willingness to speak out, and healthy boundaries in her work helping others. She's respected by peers and court participants alike.

Libertie is passionate her Weekend Warrior Club. Every Sunday the "warriors" gather for sober fun, including days at the lake or campouts. All alcoholics and addicts are welcome to join the "Warriors". In addition to her peer support work, she milks cows every morning!

Teresa I. Shackelford, LCSW earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology with an emphasis on learning theories and community psychology, and then obtained her master's degree in Social Work from Boise State University. She has worked in private mental health and hospice agencies, a medical hospital, a nursing home, and an assisted living facility. For the past five and a half years, she has worked for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Behavioral Health, Region IV. Teresa first spent a few years working in Children's Mental Health, and then moved over to Adult Mental Health on the Mobile Crisis Unit, where she works as a Designated Examiner and Team Lead. Her duties include mental health crisis response, designated exams, mental health commitments, and managing the 18-211/18-212 process for Region IV Adult Mental Health. Teresa moonlights as a court-approved Domestic Violence evaluator.

In her personal life, Teresa enjoys waving her arms around and yelling about many social issues. She also likes camping, thrift-store shopping, crocheting, hanging out with her children (ages 14, 17, & 21), taking a ridiculous number of pictures of her pets, making her Facebook friends look at said pictures, and spending her free time with the love of her life. Their goal is to buy property in a remote area, become as self-sufficient as possible, and frugally retire before age 50.

Frances Wright, Ed.D., LCPC holds a Master's Degree in Special Education and Counseling and Guidance and earned her Doctoral Degree in Educational Psychology from Brigham Young University. Wright is currently ACT/FACT Teams Clinical Supervisor and DE for Region V.

Wright has 35 years' working with troubled youth – many with juvenile justice involvement – includes 20 years as a teacher and diagnostician for a school district. During this time she wrote numerous curricula for junior high school resource education and was recognized as Utah's best specialist in learning disabilities for a number of years.

She's been a supervisor or administrator for 40 years, taught continuing education classes for Brigham Young University, has run a private mental health clinic and has provided residential treatment for troubled youth. She continues to consult regarding multiple issues involving youth and adults.

Wright has presented at state, national and international conferences over the years. She is a past member of the Board of Directors for the International Learning Disabilities Association and State of Idaho's Juvenile Justice Commission; past president of District V's Juvenile Justice Council; and listed in numerous Who's Who honors.