



Speakers and Panelists



Kristie Brooks is a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor (LPC-S) and Tribal Citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Ms. Brooks received her B.A. and M.S. in Human Services Counseling from East Central University in Oklahoma. Ms. Brooks has served on numerous federal, state, and tribal committees. She is a strong advocate for the rights of under-resourced populations at the programmatic and national policy levels. Since May 2022, she has served as the Region 6 Regional Director for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) an operating division in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Region 6 includes the States of

Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and the 68 Federally recognized Tribes.



B. Jamie Vasquez is currently the Associate Laboratory Director (ALD) at the Drug Enforcement Administration's South-Central Laboratory in Dallas, Texas. As ALD, she runs the day-to-day operations of the laboratory, handling quality assurance activities, evidence triage, customer requests, administrative functions, and budgetary requirements. Ms. Vasquez has over 21 years of experience working for the Drug Enforcement Administration, starting her career as a forensic chemist and working her way through the Laboratory System. She has experience with quality assurance and accreditation matters, as well as working directly with numerous federal, state, and local law enforcement entities in the Washington, DC and Dallas

metro areas. During her time at DEA Headquarters, she participated in numerous system projects, including turning the Laboratory System fully electronic and paperless with the implementation of a Laboratory Information Management System. She has participated in the training of law enforcement in the areas of laboratory operations, field testing, evidence packaging and submission, fentanyl safety, and clandestine laboratories. Ms. Vasquez earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from George Washington University in Washington, DC. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three young daughters.



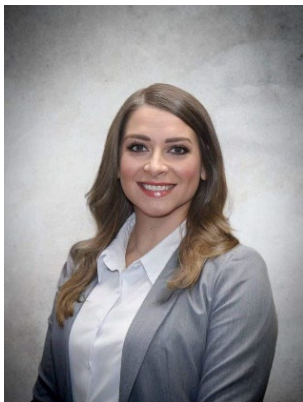
Eduardo Chavez, Special Agent in Charge Eduardo Chávez leads the Dallas Field Division, overseeing DEA operations in North Texas to include offices in Dallas, Irving, Midlothian, Fort Worth, Lubbock, Amarillo, and Tyler, as well as the entire state of Oklahoma, with offices in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and McAlester. SAC Chávez's career includes multiple years conducting undercover operations, infiltrating Mexican criminal organizations along the Southwest and leading enforcement groups that focused on destroying networks that primarily trafficked methamphetamine, heroin, and synthetic cannabinoids (spice). During his assignment at DEA

Headquarters, SAC Chávez acted as a DEA national spokesperson and oversaw a multi-million-dollar budget designated specifically for organized crime drug enforcement. His career spans over 24 years with assignments in Bakersfield, California; Mexico City, Mexico; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Washington, DC. SAC Chávez was transferred to the DEA Dallas Field Division in 2017 as an Assistant Special Agent in Charge and was subsequently promoted to the position of Special Agent in Charge in December of 2019. SAC Chávez is originally from Southwestern New Mexico. He holds a Bachelor of Science in International Politics and a certificate in Latin American Studies from the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.



Dr. Artee Gandhi began her professional career as Medical Director of the Pain Management Program at Cook Children’s Hospital in 2009. She graduated with a BA in psychology from The University of Dallas and obtained her medical degree from The University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston. Dr. Gandhi has completed both a pediatrics residency at Children’s Mercy Hospital and an anesthesiology residency at St. Luke’s Hospital in Kansas City, MO. Following that, Dr. Gandhi completed a pediatric anesthesia fellowship and a pediatric pain medicine fellowship at Stanford University, Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital in Palo Alto, CA. After fellowship, she participated in medical acupuncture training through the

Helm’s Institute at UCLA. Since being at Cook Children’s Dr. Gandhi has received the status of Distinguished Physician and was awarded the Endowed Chair for the Center for Pain Management and Integrative Therapies in 2018. She currently serves as the chair of the Opioid Stewardship Committee, which works with advocacy groups such as Cook Children’s Community Health, whose focus is to raise awareness on the multidimensional impact opioids have on children, adolescents, and young adults. Dr. Gandhi is married to Tom Carr, who is an architect, and has two boys, Lucas and Neil who are 13 and 10 years old.



Becky Tinney holds a bachelor’s in business administration from Northwood University and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Texas Arlington, with an emphasis on Mental Health and Substance Abuse. She is a Licensed Master Level Social Worker, a Certified Prevention Specialist, and a Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor. Becky has worked in the social services field for 10 years and currently serves as the Director of Special Projects at Recovery Resource Center (RRC). Becky is attributed with the agency’s recent success in launching the Overdose Response Team program in both Dallas and Tarrant County and has recently initiated an Overdose Fatality

Review committee for Tarrant County, the first in the state of Texas. Becky oversees RRC’s position as the Public Health Partner for the Center for Disease Control’s Overdose Response Strategy program for the North Texas region (a partnership program with the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program). She is a contributing member on several opioid-focused task forces and work groups across the metroplex, including the City of Dallas’s Opioid and Fentanyl Strike Force, Tarrant County Public Health’s Overdose Workgroup, UNT Police Departments Fentanyl/Overdose Awareness Coalition, and Dallas ISD’s Substance Abuse Task Force. Becky is passionate about serving others, making community-level impact, and creating and leading programs that are aimed at reducing harm and making meaningful change.



Dr. Nici Richardson-McFarland, PhD, LPC, BCC, MABC, BC-TMH, CCH. Dr. Richardson-McFarland holds a BA in Psychology from the University of Houston, a MA in Biblical Counseling from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a Ph. D in Advanced Studies of Human Behavior from Capella University. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), a Board-Certified Chaplain (BCC), a Board Certified Telemental Health Provider (BC-TMH), and a Certified Consulting Hypnotist (CCH). Dr. Richardson-McFarland is a compassionate and experienced grief therapist. As the owner of Crown of Hope Counseling, she specializes in helping individuals navigate grief and loss, manage compassion fatigue, and cope with chronic illness. With a background as a

chaplain at a level one trauma hospital, Nici brings seven years of specialized grief experience to her work. Her commitment to supporting others extends beyond individual counseling sessions; she has also translated her expertise to the speaking platform, where she educates audiences about the complexities of grief.

For more information about Nici and her work, visit the Crown of Hope Counseling website at www.crownofhopecounseling.com.



Tiffany Turner is a dedicated professional with a fervent commitment to helping others. With a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of North Texas and a master's degree in counseling psychology from Northeastern State University, she has cultivated a rich and diverse career in behavioral health and risk management. Her journey has taken her through pivotal roles at Child Protective Services, MHMR, psychiatric hospitals, private practice, and the K-12 school community. As a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor in Texas, Tiffany has been an integral part of the Eagle Mountain Saginaw Independent School District for over a decade, currently serving as the

Coordinator of Crisis Intervention. While she excels in handling various crises, her true passion lies in prevention. Tiffany actively engages in facilitating prevention education programs within her district, covering topics such as suicide risk, substance abuse, and violence prevention. Outside of her professional endeavors, Tiffany is an avid consumer of podcasts and books and enjoys spending time with her two teenage children.



Dr. Angela Lawrence is a drug and alcohol district interventionist for Arlington ISD. She has a PhD in sociology with a concentration in medical sociology and social stratification. She is also a licensed social worker (LMSW). She is published in the Journal of Community Health Nursing. Dr. Lawrence has spent her career in child welfare and school social work. She has worked in three of the largest urban school districts in North Texas: Arlington ISD, Fort Worth ISD and Dallas ISD. Dr. Lawrence also occasionally works as an adjunct instructor with Texas A&M International, teaching social theory and sociology of gender roles. Dr. Lawrence began her career working with foster care youth in residential treatment centers and youth shelters, she then began her work in school settings working with vulnerable youth and their families. Outside of work Dr. Lawrence serves as a board member with JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation), the world's largest nonprofit funder of type 1 diabetes research. She is married and has two young children.



Kevin McKinney is a District Intervention Specialist for Arlington ISD providing prevention information for students, staff, parents, and the community. He obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo in Ohio and gained his graduate degree in Addiction Counseling from Grand Canyon University in Arizona. He has also successfully passed the NCE to become an LCP and is currently working towards full licensure by completing supervised clinical counseling hours. Mr. McKinney began his career as a counselor in Toledo, Ohio working with adolescents and adults. Mr. McKinney has extensive experience in the substance use disorder prevention field for the past 28 years. He has worked in every arena related to substance use and abuse assisting individuals in settings such as treatment settings, juvenile detention, homeless shelters, jail settings, hospitals and currently in the school setting. Mr. McKinney had worked in Grand Prairie ISD and Fort Worth ISD in prevention as well as intervention prior to his time in Arlington ISD. He is compassionate and is driven to see adolescents avoid the lifestyle of drugs and alcohol.

Michelle Broadwater This is Michelle's 25th year in school social work where she serves as Assistant Director of Counseling Services for Birdville ISD. She also serves as the District Crisis Manager and leads the district's Crisis Response Team. Mrs.



Broadwater is also a Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) Practitioner, EMDRIA approved EMDR trained, and also trained in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). In addition to her work within the school district, she also works closely with the Tarrant County CISM team and several local police and fire departments to provide CISM debriefings. Michelle and her counseling team work hard educating others on how the effects of trauma impact the lives of students, emotionally, physically, and academically. Her team teaches how to identify signs of trauma and provides tangible resources to educators so all students can thrive and be successful. Michelle's husband is a Battalion Chief for FWFD and they live in North Richland Hills with their three children.