



Prevention and Early Intervention Project
Presenter and Panelist Biographies
March 24th, 2021

Nicole Eberhart, PhD, is a senior behavioral scientist at the RAND Corporation and a licensed clinical psychologist. Her research focuses primarily on mental health. More specifically, her work focuses on evaluation of behavioral health programs, programs that integrate primary and behavioral health care, and innovative models of service delivery; military and veteran mental health; prevention and early intervention; and epidemiology of psychological problems in adolescents and adults. Eberhart received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Kara Taguchi, PsyD, is a Mental Health Clinical Program Head with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. She has spent the last 14 years as the Program Manager overseeing outcome data collection and reporting for Mental Health Services Act funded programs. In that role, Dr. Taguchi's team has been responsible for identifying outcome tools and data collection protocols, working collaboratively with our Chief Information Office Division and subject matter experts to develop applications to capture data, providing technical assistance, gathering requirements for reporting, and creating and distributing reports to be used for continuous quality improvement. In more recent years, her duties have expanded to advise on data collection for programs beyond those funded by MHSA. She joined the LA County Department of Mental Health in 2000 as a Clinical Psychologist providing mental health services to foster and probation youth residing in LA County's only public shelter. Since then, her experience varied from program development, contract monitoring, improving relationships with mental health and child welfare, and service area administration until planning started for MHSA in 2004.

Robin K. Roberts, MFT, has had the honor to be a part of the Mono County Behavioral Health Team in the role of director. Mono is a Frontier County that has used the MHSA to promote prevention, stigma reduction, engagement, and outreach in all of our small towns and very remote areas by using a robust and innovative stakeholder process. Robin believes that the "small county story" is an up close and personal version of how the MHSA can and ought to work for all counties.

Ahmad Bahrami, MBA, has worked in County Behavioral Health for over 12 years (over two years with Fresno and nine with Kings County). Ahmad is currently the Division Manager over the Public Behavioral Health Division for the Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health as well the Ethnic Services Manager for Department. His team oversees the county's prevention efforts (substance misuse, mental health and suicide prevention), its community and public relations, outreach and education, oversight of the Mental Health Services Act, and work on the addressing health disparities within the system of care. Previously Ahmad worked as part of the leadership team at Kings County Behavioral Health where his assignments/roles had included,



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Administrative Program Manager, Prevention and Early Intervention Manager, Ethnic Services Manager, MHSA Coordinator, Public Information Officer, HIPAA Compliance, etc. Ahmad has been involved at the state and regional level with cultural humility and reducing disparities, policy, development of plans, programs, education/student mental health, truancy prevention, suicide prevention, etc. Ahmad serves on several local and state committees, boards and workgroups, including the appointment by the State Superintendent of Public Education to the California Department of Education's Student Mental Health Policy Workgroup and the School Attendance Review Board as representative for County Behavioral Health.

Prior to his work in public behavioral health Ahmad had worked with various community-based providers as both a direct service provider and in leadership roles. His experience outside of county behavioral health has included criminal justice settings, community public health, substance use, housing, and workforce development. He has also served on several different local non-profit boards.

Ahmad's educational background includes a BS in Criminology, an MBA with an HR emphasis, and completion of doctoral work in Organizational Development. Ahmad was named as a Behavioral Health Champion in 2019 by the Steinberg Institute for his work around reducing health disparities.