

2022 LASPN
12th Annual
Suicide Prevention Summit

Healing Pathways for Support and Connection

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022



DAY 3 PROGRAM

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS



Derek Rose is a veteran of the United States Navy, serving in direct support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn. From 2007-2009, Derek served at Personnel Support Detachment Afloat West in San Diego, Ca. He also served at Naval Support Activity, Bahrain from 2009-2011, where he provided logistical support for personnel stationed in the Persian Gulf.

Derek received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Relations from California State University, Sacramento in 2016, and joined CalVet shortly after as a member of the Veterans Services Division.



Keith Boylan was reappointed November 30, 2020, by Governor Gavin Newsom as Deputy Secretary for the Veterans Services Division at the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Keith served in the US Army from 1989-1992 as a Tactical Fire Specialist and was deployed to Iraq with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in support of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Desert Calm.

After graduating from San Francisco State University, Mr. Boylan began working with the Legal Unit at Swords to Plowshares, a non-profit veteran service agency in San Francisco. During this time, he advocated for veterans and provided direct claim

representation before the USDVA and Board of Veteran Appeals on their behalf.

Keith later served as the Government Relations and Community Education Director for the Institute for Veteran Policy. There his efforts focused on the development and implementation of the Combat to Community (C2C) program. The C2C program included cultural competency trainings for law enforcement, first responders, HR professionals, clinicians, post-secondary faculty, faith-based providers, and legal advocates. Most recently, Keith served as the Government Relations Liaison for the California Association of Veteran Service Agencies (CAVSA). CAVSA is a consortium of non-profit veteran service agencies throughout the state that provide housing, employment, and mental health services to more than 20,000 veterans a year.

In his current role as Deputy Secretary with CalVet, Keith shepherds the provision of services and access to benefits for the more than 1.8 million veterans in the state. This responsibility includes: all compensation and pension claims and appeals filed with the USDVA, the approval and oversight of all post-secondary institutions in California for reception of GI Bill benefits, the Veteran Housing and Homeless Prevention (VHHP) program, State Veteran Cemeteries, and Veteran Memorials.



Darryl J. Vincent, MSW, CSAC-Chief Operating Officer, has been with U.S.VETS since 2003. As Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Vincent directly supervises all Executive Directors across the organization's 11 service areas and oversees overall operations of U.S.VETS nationally.

As a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Vincent has a long-

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standing commitment and sincere compassion for the veteran community. Mr. Vincent truly operates with the belief that any veteran who sleeps on the same streets they were once asked to defend represents a dishonor to us all – and that it is our job at U.S.VETS to work ourselves out of a job. After his military service, Mr. Vincent received his Bachelor’s Degree in Human Services, a Master Degree in Social Work from the University of New England and is a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor. Earlier in his career at U.S.VETS, Mr. Vincent led the expansion of our U.S.VETS-Barber’s Point and opened U.S.VETS-Waianae. As the head of U.S.VETS programs nationally, his attention to quality and measurable outcomes led the organization to achieve CARF accreditation and to be recognized as a national leader in service delivery to homeless veterans.

During Mr. Vincent’s leadership in Hawaii he was recognized as one of the “ten people who made a difference in Hawaii” in the year 2007. In 2008, he was awarded the “Unsung Hero” award at NCHV. He also served as the Chairperson for the entire Continuum of Care from 2010-2013. In 2012, Mr. Vincent was honored at the Helping Hands Hawaii annual dinner, in celebration of his 19 years of work in the social service field. In 2013, Mr. Vincent received the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation AIM for Excellence Award. Mr. Vincent has been featured in local and national media including Hawaii Magazine, Honolulu Star Advertiser, ABC, CBS and Fox News, and has provided testimony at state and federal levels to government, community coalitions and Veterans Administration leadership, advocating for the needs of America’s veterans.

Beyond his professional community involvement, Mr. Vincent is a Weinberg Fellow and proud member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He is the proud father of two sons, a teen ager who started high school this year, and the older son who recently graduated from West Point Class of 2020; and is attending aviation school.

MOMENT OF CREATIVE WELLBEING-12:30 P.M.-12:45 P.M.

VERSA STYLE WITH ARTS FOR HEALING & JUSTICE NETWORK
Featuring artist Jason Heath of Jail Guitar Doors



Jason Heath is a singer/songwriter born and raised in Southern California. He currently holds the position of Program Coordinator/Lead Teaching Artist at Jail Guitar Doors USA where he teaches songwriting as a tool for healing and connection in prisons, jails and youth facilities.

He’s toured the US and Canada many times and released 8 full length albums in various different musical collaborations. He currently fronts the outfit Jason Heath & The Greedy Souls who have released their last 3 records on Wayne Kramer’s Industrial Amusement label. Their latest release ‘But There’s Nowhere To Go’ is being played on radio stations around the US and Canada.

<https://jasonheathandthegreedysouls.com/>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER-10:00 A.M.-10:40 A.M.

REJUVENATION: COMBATting THE COST OF CARING

Dr. Raymond K. Hsu has been a police psychologist with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) for the past 7 years. His passion for mental wellness has taken him around the world from Kitale, Kenya where he spoke on HIV Mental Wellness as part of a humanitarian mission to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, where he was deployed as a mental health non-commissioned officer for Operation Enduring Freedom. Dr. Hsu’s goal is to instill hope in others so that we can all find joy in the domains of our life; occupational, interpersonal and leisure.



SESSION ONE-10:40 A.M.-11:20 A.M.

ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION OF SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIOR: SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS ON FIREARM SUICIDE



Dr. Mike Anestis is the Executive Director of the New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center and an Associate Professor of Urban Global Public Health at Rutgers University. A licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Anestis has published well over 150 peer reviewed scientific articles as well as a book, entitled Guns and Suicide: An American Epic. He was the 2018 recipient of the Edwin Shneidman Award from the American Association of Suicidology in recognition of early career achievement in suicide research and has served as a named investigator on several federally funded grants focused on firearm suicide prevention.

BREAK-11:10 A.M.-11:20 A.M.

SESSION TWO-11:30 A.M.-12:20 P.M.

GREATER CRISIS CARE ACCESS: THE REALITY AND THE PROMISE OF 9-8-8

Sandri Kramer, a founding member of the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Network (LASPN), has over 25 years of experience in suicide prevention/intervention and crisis center work. As Didi Hirsch’s Director of Community Relations, she focuses on Program Development, Community Partnerships, and Public Awareness/Training. After many years of grassroots work with law



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enforcement partners, overseeing the launch of LAPD's 911 call diversion project is one of her proudest achievements. She is also currently working on expanding SPC's role in emergency management as a core center of the national Disaster Distress Helpline, strengthening and expanding the center's collaborative partnerships with numerous law enforcement agencies, and the implementation and growth of 9-8-8. She serves on numerous coalitions and task forces, including as vice-president on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Crisis Organization Directors (NASCOD), as a member of the Board of the Emergency Network Los Angeles (ENLA), as an original member of the LA Mayor's Challenge Team on Suicide Prevention for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families, as a lead trainer for CopLine, and as a member of LA's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) Community Partnership Council.

LUNCH: 12:20 P.M.-12:40 P.M.

SESSION THREE 12:40 P.M.-1:00 P.M.

COPLINE: THE CREATION AND THE NEED

Stephanie Samuels is a psycho-therapist who works exclusively with police officers in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Oklahoma. Ms. Samuels has lectured all over the country on PTSD and vicarious trauma, including undiagnosed PTSD and the fallout from departmental silence after officers are involved in critical incidents as well as how traumatic pasts play apart in an officers career.



Ms. Samuels began her career as one of the teens in the first focus group of Teen Line Cares, a mental health help line for teens. Ms. Samuels understood that teens only trusted and confided in other teens. With this same concept in mind, Ms. Samuels went on to create two law enforcement officer hotlines. She is currently the Founder and Director of COPLINE, Inc., the first Confidential National Law Enforcement Officers' Hotline in the country manned by retired officers.

She is the general partner of The Counseling and Critical Incident Debriefing Center, LLC, which specializes in debriefing and long term counseling of first responders and their families. She taught at the Monmouth County Police Academy for 16 years and has been a guest lecturer at The FBI Academy in Quantico. Ms. Samuels was hired after the Boston Bombing as the Clinical Director of the Boston Police Department Peer Support Unit and co-founded the LEADER (Law Enforcement Active Duty Emergency Responder) Program at Harvard's McLean Hospital.

Ms. Samuels has co-authored *Under the Blue Shadow: Clinical and Behavioral Perspectives on Police Suicide* with Dr. John Violanti and a chapter entitled "Police Trauma: Past Exposures and Present Consequences" in the book *Managing Traumatic Stress Risk: A Proactive Approach*. She received the President's Award in Social Work in 1999 for the legislation that she wrote to create a statewide hotline now known as Cop2Cop and critical incident debriefings for law enforcement officers. She received the "Honored Citizen Award" from the New Jersey Honor Legion for her contributions to the law enforcement community. She has authored five legislative bills in New Jersey and has helped get two of them passed. One bill was introduced in Pennsylvania that would recognize a psychological injury as the same as a physical injury for the law enforcement community. Ms. Samuels is the author of the "Dear Steph" column for the New Jersey State Fraternal Order of Police Newspaper. Ms. Samuels got her Bachelors degree from UCLA, a Masters degree in Psychology from Antioch University, Los Angeles, and a Masters degree in Social Work from Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

SESSION FOUR 1:00 P.M.-1:30 P.M.

COPS UNDERSTAND: CHOOSING TO ANSER THE CALL AGAIN

MODERATOR

Stephanie Samuels

PANEL MEMBERS



Chief Stringham joined the LASD in 1982 as a Deputy Sheriff Trainee. He graduated from the Academy in 1983 and went on to work as a Deputy in various capacities at multiple units. He began as a Module Deputy and Prowler at the Hall of Justice Jail facility. He would later move on to be a Bailiff at Court Services, a patrol deputy, Field Training Officer, Jailer and Dispatcher at Industry station as well as a Background Investigator and Staff Instructor at Training Bureau.

In 1997, Chief Stringham promoted to the rank of Sergeant and transferred to Temple Station, where he served as a Patrol Sergeant and a Training Sergeant. After three years, he briefly transferred to Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau as the Media Relations and Training Sergeant before promoting to Lieutenant in 2000 and transferring to Lakewood Station. While at Lakewood Station, he served as a Watch Commander and the Detective Bureau Commander. In 2003, he transferred to Regional Community Policing Institute (RCPI) where he performed the roles of Program Director and Federal Grant Administrator for COPS office grants. Chief Stringham transferred to Contract Law in 2007 as a member of the Office of Public Safety (OPS) merger study team and in 2008, moved on to be an Executive Aide for Leadership & Training Division.

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Chief Stringham was promoted to Captain of County Services Bureau in 2009, where he remained as the Unit Commander until his retirement in 2015. In December of 2018, Chief Stringham accepted an offer to return to LASD at the rank of Chief. He oversaw Countywide Services Division, which is comprised of County Services Bureau, Parks Bureau, Community Colleges Bureau and Community Partnerships Bureau. Chief Stringham has Associate's degrees in Administration of Justice and Liberal Arts from Mt. San Antonio Community College and Coastline Community College, respectively. He also has a Bachelor's degree in Vocational Training from California State University, Long Beach. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Class #222 and of the Cornell School of Leadership Certificate Program.

Before joining the Department, Chief Stringham served in the United States Army, reaching the rank of SP-4. He spent many years coaching both Little League and RYSL Soccer, as well as refereeing youth soccer. He has been married for 39 years and has two adult sons who are also married. When he is off-duty, Chief Stringham enjoys bowling, camping, fishing, working out and reading.



Ari Sloane, Tucson Police Department Veteran of 21 years (retired seven years), served his community as Lead Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Under-Cover Narcotics and VICE Officer, and Hostage Crisis Negotiator. Currently the Manager of Physical Security Services for an Energy Utility in Southern Arizona.

Husband and father of a teenage daughter, spends time with family and enjoying the desert outdoors. Continues to serve his Law Enforcement family as a listener at CopLine and a Board Member with Arizona's 88-Crime Inc. and the Erik Hite Foundation.

Elizabeth DeLeon Bennett grew up in Dallas and attended Bishop Lynch High School. Bennett attended college at the University of North Texas and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She began a career in law enforcement as an Arlington Police Officer in 1994 where she enjoyed serving the citizens of Arlington for 23 years. Bennett served 10 years as a patrol Officer 12 years as a Detective. During her tenure with the Arlington Police Department, Bennett spent two years as an Undercover Narcotics Detective. She attended SWAT school and became a Hostage Negotiator. She was selected as a Field Training Officer and trained several recruit Officers. Bennett became a firearms instructor and a fitness instructor which allowed her to run annual fitness tests and firearms qualification for the entire department. Bennett was a certified TECOLE



Instructor and has taught various courses at the Police Training Center. Her love for investigations led her to the position of Detective for the Criminal Investigations Division for the geographic unit at the West Division. She received substantial training in interviews and interrogations, statement analysis, as well as arrest and search warrant writing. She learned to use various search engines and social media websites for the purpose of collecting background information and locating persons of interest. Bennett retired from the Arlington Police Department in 2017. She recently obtained her Private Investigator License and worked in a part time capacity and continues to use the skills obtained from her years of experience as an investigator Elizabeth Bennett has been married to her husband, Patrick Bennett, for 15 years. The two are active in the church and donate to various charities including hosting a charity hunting weekend for a friend who has a quadriplegic child. She is currently a volunteer call taker for the Nationwide nonprofit, Copline which is a crisis hotline for Police Officers who are in distress.

SESSION FIVE-1:30 P.M.-1:50 P.M

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION UTILIZING PEER SUPPORT IN THE FIRE SERVICE



Captain Scott Ross is an active duty Fire Captain with the Los Angeles County Fire Department with over 30 years working in the fire service.

Throughout his career, he has been dedicating to professionally and compassionately serving a wide range of communi-

ties, including innercity, business, rural, wildland, beach cities, and the suburbs. When not in the field, Scott enjoys being outdoors fishing, camping, SUV riding in the desert with Family and friends.

As the Peer Support Coordinator for the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Captain Ross oversees a team that serves over 3,200 Firefighters, 700 Lifeguards and over 1,000 civilians. His passion and commitment to the mission of peer support by providing countless hours of direct service, support, and resources to fire, lifeguards, dispatch, law enforcement and EMS communities under every circumstance imaginable, has spanned over 18 years.

Captain Ross can be activated and deployed by the IAFF at any time and is dedicated to serving wherever needed to assist during a department's time of need. In addition to managing and leading one of the largest First Responder Peer Support Teams in the nation, he also responds directly to various critical incident responses and serves several organizations, including:

- Line-of-duty deaths (LODD) and Firefighter suicides throughout the western states including Arizona, Idaho, Utah, Oregon, Nevada and California.

- Serves as a respected trainer, consultant, presenter, and advocate for Peer Support programs nationwide.
- Master Instructor for Peer Support training program with the International Association of Fire Fighters,
- Vice President of the Public Safety Peer Support Association
- Past Vice President of the Behavioral Health Working Group of Firescope in California.

Dr. Steven Froehlich began with the Beverly Hills Police Department. Later he was trained by the Los Angeles Police Department in Crisis Negotiations and was added to the Beverly Hills Police Department’s Crisis Negotiations Team. Subsequently, he was recruited as a Mental Health Professional to assist the FBI in their Los Angeles Field Office. In 1995, Steve was brought onto the Critical Incident Stress Management Team with the Los Angeles County Fire Department where he served until 2017. In May 2017, he was asked to join the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City as their full time Director of Behavioral Health. In April 2021, Dr. Steve was able to come back as Director of Behavioral Health and Lead Clinician for Local 1014 and the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Collaboratively working with local 1014 and the LACoFD, the Peer Support Team and Dr Steve are laser focused to bring the very best Behavioral Health Services to all Fire Department employees.



SESSION SIX-2:00 P.M.-2:40 P.M

INNOVATIVE COLLABORATIONS FOR VETERAN CRISIS RESPONSE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

MODERATOR



Mr. Dave Weiner has served both military and civilian communities passionately for well over 27 years in military, law enforcement and corporate security service. Mr. Weiner started his law enforcement career in the United States Air Force in 1993 as a military policeman.

As his career progressed, he worked a variety of assignments such as a patrol officer, field training officer, K-9 handler, Special Response Team, Training Coordinator and in supervisory positions over both Patrol and Investigations.

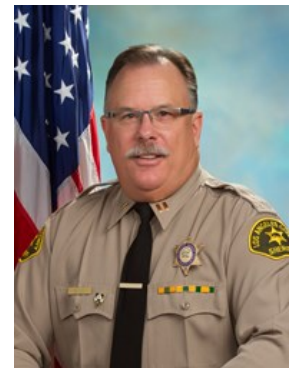
Mr. Weiner also has many years of senior leadership experience in law enforcement and corporate security. Holding executive level positions such as Director of Security and Asst Chief of Police, Mr Weiner successfully rose to the level of Regional Chief of Police of the US Department of Veteran Affairs Police in Long Beach Ca in 2014.

During his tenure, he worked collaboratively with agencies such as LASD MET, LAPD MEU and Long Beach Police Department MET to address Veteran related issues such as crisis intervention and Suicide Prevention. He created innovative police department programs to keep the communities in which he served safer.

Notably, he implemented a mental health outreach program for Veterans called VMET (Veteran Mental Evaluation Unit) and a Threat Management Unit to proactively prevent acts of violence in a healthcare setting that caters to the Veteran community. The VMET program has been adopted by the US Department of Veteran Affairs and is currently being rolled out as a pilot program at several major Veteran Affairs medical centers nationwide.

PANEL MEMBERS

Captain Gannon is a 34-year veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. He is the current unit commander for the Community College Bureau. Prior to his promotion, Captain Gannon served as the unit commander for the LA County Mental Evaluation Teams (MET) for five (5) years. MET is a collaboration with the DMH and later included the VA as part of VMET program. Captain Gannon helped vastly expand MET from 5 to 33 co-response teams & 6 case management teams responding from 14 regional offices Countywide, 20-hours per day – 7 days. He started the 24-hr MET triage help desk for consulting and dispatching of MET units to respond in real time with patrol deputies, CHP officers, & LA Co. Fire Dept when responding to mental health crises in over 40 cities plus the unincorporated areas of LACo. Captain Gannon serves as a law enforcement delegate to the Alt. Crisis Response (ACR) initiative in LA County, working to implement the County 988 system.



Sergeant Richard Bojorquez is a 33-year veteran law enforcement professional with the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department. Sgt Bojorquez is currently assigned to departments Mental Evaluation Teams (MET) as the Veteran Liaison Officer and new Veteran Mental Evaluation Team Supervisor. During his career has worked a number of other assignments to include narcotics, gang enforcement detail, custody and patrol supervisor.

Sgt Bojorquez is tireless advocate for Veterans who reside in the Los Angeles County area, most specifically the ones that struggle with mental health issues related to military service. As the Veteran Liaison Officer for the Mental Evaluation Teams (MET), he has been highly effective in marshaling supportive community resources for Military, Veterans, and their families,

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helping to create specialized training in Veteran Cultural Competencies to educate public safety personnel about the unique aspects of Veteran & Military culture. As a Navy Veteran himself he connects with Veterans in crisis in meaningful ways and help divert them from the criminal justice system and get them connected with VA resources. He has fostered an outstanding partnership with the local Veteran Affairs Police Department's to establish a community linkage to the VA to assist with mental health and housing resources and for Veterans in crisis.

Additionally, Sgt Bojorquez assists in every area of the MET office to include supervising and assisting deputies in the field with calls for service, taking on special projects, assisting other community partners such as Covina Police Department address homeless issues in their community. His deep knowledge, engaged leadership style and empathetic attitude towards the community allows him to consistently create solutions to connect with community leaders and provide the necessary resources to help those in crisis and to proactively prevent suicide in the community.

Sgt Bojorquez also volunteers his off-duty time to help foster children in a sailing program in Marina Del Rey. The children are taught basic boating safety, given tools and materials to build a small sailboat of their own and helps them define their own self-worth and confidence. This gives them both confidence and hope, which are both powerful tools in suicide prevention.



Lieutenant Annadennise Briz is a 23 year veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and has been a hostage/crisis negotiator for 22 of those 23 years. Having had experience working as a Licensed Psychiatric Technician for the Department of Mental Health before becoming a deputy, Annadennise was a mental health worker on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Mental Evaluation Team for 5 ½ years. The unit partners a Deputy Sheriff and Department of Mental Health clinician to assist field deputies when they encounter a mentally ill individual in crisis or involved in a tactical operation.

Lieutenant Briz has worked with in custody facilities on the Jail Mental Evaluation Team as well as a federally funded grant item. She has been assigned as a Bailiff in the Mental Health Court in Los Angeles County. Lieutenant Briz has worked a field patrol assignment and again, on the Mental Evaluation Team as a Bonus Deputy. Annadennise was promoted to Sergeant in May of 2010 and is currently working as the Lieutenant, overseeing the Mental Evaluation Team (MET).

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was the very first law enforcement agency world-wide to deploy a co-response

team which partners a Deputy Sheriff and a Mental Health Worker from Department of Mental Health (DMH). In 2018 with the assistance of Captain John Gannon, Annadennise created the Risk Assessment and Management Program (RAMP)- the investigative component of MET. RAMP provides intensive crisis stabilization which includes case management for high risk threats for violence cases that are in need of a higher degree of mental health care.

Lieutenant Briz has presented numerous incidents at training meetings sponsored by the California Association of Hostage Negotiators (CAHN) within Southern California. She has also presented at the annual Mental Illness and Law Enforcement Conference and to numerous law enforcement agencies nationwide. In addition, Annadennise teaches per diem with the National Tactical Officers Association and instructs Basic Crisis Negotiations Training to law enforcement agencies nationwide and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services and an Associate of Science degree in Mental Health.

SESSION SEVEN-2:40 P.M.-3:20 P.M

SUPPORTING MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES



Melissa Lee, BA, serves as the Family Resource Coordinator for the VFWC. She served as a ground supply officer in the USMC from 2000 to 2004. She was stationed at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Camp Lejeune, and Camp Hansen, Okinawa. She did Veteran outreach for Habitat for Humanity in the San Fernando/Santa Clarita valleys, and since 2015 she has volunteered with and been a Boardmember for 22 Until None, a nonprofit dedicated to ending Veteran suicide. She is currently halfway through her Master's program, with the goal of becoming a Marriage and Family Therapist. She is married to a former Marine Corps infantry officer and was stationed with him at Marine Corps bases Camp Pendleton and Twentynine Palms. They have a 10 year old daughter and a 13 year old son.

CLOSING REMARKS 3:20 P.M.

Many thanks to the amazing 2022 Videos

9/16/2022

November

Hope and Heal

LA County Sheriff

LA Police Department

Board of Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Board of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl