

# 2026 DEC CONFERENCE

## SPEAKER INFORMATION (In alphabetical order)

### **Matt Anderson, Special Agent in Charge**

Special Agent in Charge Matt Anderson joined the Iowa Department of Public Safety in 1994. SAC Anderson has held positions with the Iowa State Patrol, the Division of Criminal Investigation, the Governor's School Safety Bureau, and currently, the Division of Narcotics Enforcement. With over a decade of narcotics investigations SAC Anderson has witnessed the pain of drug endangered children. These experiences were a leading catalyst for Matt, and his wife Andrea, to welcome two children into their home and into their family. SAC will share personal and career experiences, lessons learned, expected and unexpected challenges of a non-typical adoption.

### **Laticia Aossey, AMP Program Manager**

Laticia has dedicated her life to overcoming the statistics and stereotypes placed on foster kids. She spent a total of ten years in Iowa's foster care system, which included moving 18 times and switching schools 14 times. Laticia defeated the odds by graduating high school early and going on independent living at age seventeen, then participating in Iowa's Aftercare program. She graduated from Capella University with a master's degree in social work in December 2022. She is currently working as the Program Operations Manager for Iowa's foster care youth council, known as AMP, and as the Cedar Rapids AMP Facilitator.

### **Hope Fiori, MPPA, Director of Special Projects**

As Director of Special Projects, Hope leads strategy and business development for health and justice system agencies around alternatives to arrest/incarceration and linkages to care for individuals with behavioral health conditions. Hope develops consulting, training, and technical assistance for local, state, and national projects and consults on systems-level change and community treatment capacity building. She is also a nationally recognized subject matter expert in deflection, interacting with and knowledgeable of hundreds of such initiatives around the country. Before starting this role, Hope was CHJ's National Deflection TA Center director, part of the United States Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP). In this position, Hope provided technical assistance for deflection and pre-arrest diversion initiatives, including over 230 grant recipients.

### **Melony Gravenish, Iowa Parent Partner State Operations Coordinator**

I started with the program as one of the original Parent Partners in November of 2007, eventually moving to State Operations Coordinator in July 2019. In my 18 years I have gained extensive knowledge of Parent Partner Approach and program development. I have knowledge of addiction, mental health, substance abuse, the Iowa child welfare system, birth parents' rights and responsibilities, peer to peer support, and supporting those with lived experience. I

am also a grateful recovering meth addict of 19 years and the mother of a large blended family with 15 busy grandchildren.

### **Donald Hinton, Entrepreneur & Author**

Donald Hinton is a real-estate investor, author and advocate for second chances who transformed his life after serving eight years in federal prison for gun- and drug-related offenses. While incarcerated he worked in the UNICOR federal prison labor program and even ran a small store inside prison where he saved about \$9,500. After his release he used those savings to purchase his first property, and within three years had amassed 14 properties. Today he is the author of the book *From Prison to Properties*, teaches real estate investing through online courses, and leads his company, 2nd Chance LLC, to provide housing, jobs and education for formerly incarcerated individuals.

### **Allie Houston, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)**

Allie Houston serves as a Program Specialist with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), where she works to educate communities, support victims, and raise awareness about the dangers of impaired driving. With a passion for prevention and outreach, Allie partners with schools, community organizations, and law enforcement to deliver impactful programs that inspire change and save lives. She is dedicated to empowering individuals and families with resources, education, and advocacy, ensuring MADD's mission—to end drunk and drugged driving and support victims—is at the heart of every effort.

### **Chantel Lincoln, MPH, CPH**

Chantel Lincoln, MPH, CPH, serves as Deputy Director of Drug Free America Foundation, Inc., where she develops evidence-based educational resources, designs prevention campaigns, and educates on the harms of substance use and emerging drug trends. She leads the Florida Neonatal Marijuana Exposure Task Force to prevent marijuana use during pregnancy, manages the Global Task Force, and mentors youth through the Young Professionals Advisory Board and Take Stock In Children program. Her work includes collaborating with national and international stakeholders, writing on global drug policy issues, creating social media campaigns, and coordinating events and trainings. Chantel holds a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology and Global Communicable Diseases and a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences from the University of South Florida. Her commitment to prevention is rooted in personal experience, fueling her passion to address substance use and its devastating impact on families.

### **Judy Norris, Sr. Training and Technical Assistance Specialist**

Judy Norris has journeyed more than 35 years in serving children, youth and families in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. She has extensive experience in working with children (of all ages) and families and developing programs to meet their needs. Ms. Norris has played a critical role in the development of ZERO TO THREE's Safe Babies Court Team approach. She is currently the Sr. TA and Training Specialist with ZERO TO THREE's Infant Toddler Program's National Resource Center based on the Safe Babies Approach. She supports states and sites in the implementation of Safe Babies and preventative system change practices for

the overall health and well-being of babies and their families, including co-designed strategies with Parent Leaders and persons with lived experiences.

### **Sara Persons, Iowa Parent Partner State Director**

Sara Persons is the State Director for the Iowa Parent Partner Program operated by Children & Families of Iowa since 2013. She has been employed with CFI for 20 years. In her role, Sara manages the statewide parent partner contract, all fatherhood programming and serves as a purveyor for out of state partners who wish to implement the Iowa Parent Partner model. Sara is a sixteen-year member of the Wapello County Family Treatment Court. Prior to entering her child welfare role, she graduated from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs with a bachelor's in psychology.

### **Trooper Dylan Rasmussen, Drug Recognition Expert Instructor**

Trooper Dylan Rasmussen began his law enforcement career in 2019 when he was hired as a commercial motor vehicle inspector with Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement where he received certifications as a Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) commercial vehicle inspector.

In 2023, with the legislative merger of Iowa Motor Vehicle Enforcement and the Iowa State Patrol, Trooper Rasmussen became a member of the State Patrol's new Commercial Motor Vehicle Unit. In April 2024, Trooper Rasmussen transferred to District One in Des Moines, where he is currently assigned.

Trooper Rasmussen has been humbly recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for his on-going efforts in combating impaired driving. He has also been recognized by the National DRE Program Manager and the Iowa Governors Traffic Safety Bureau for his pro-active approach to conducting drug influence evaluations.

In March 2025, Trooper Rasmussen was published as a contributing author for the IACP Police Chief Magazine Traffic Safety Initiative column.

Trooper Rasmussen holds certifications as a Standardized Field Sobriety Testing instructor, Drug Recognition Expert and Drug Recognition Expert Instructor and has facilitated over 600 combined hours of instruction in the basic SFST curriculum, SFST Instructor Development courses, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement Trainings, and Drug Recognition Expert Schools.

### **Susie Sher, Bureau Chief**

Susie Sher joined the Iowa Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) in 2007. Prior to joining ODCP, Susie served as a School Resource Officer and DARE Officer at the Norwalk Police Department, and a patrol officer at the Indianola Police Department.

During her tenure at ODCP, Susie has worn many hats including Budget Analyst, Executive Officer, and Bureau Chief. Her work involves collaboration with both private and public sector leaders to coordinate the state's response to drug and alcohol use. She plays a pivotal role in grant administration, data collection and analysis, and the annual Iowa Drug Control Strategy. Susie is a graduate of Iowa State University. As a married mother of four, she values quality time spent with loved ones. Susie's dedication to creating a safer and healthier Iowa through her work at ODCP reflects her passion for public service and her love for her family.

### **LaDrina Wilson, PhD, Entrepreneur and Speaker**

Dr. LaDrina Wilson is the founder and CEO of IMAN Consulting, a leadership and inclusion consultancy that partners with organizations across sectors to build inclusive cultures and elevate under-represented leaders. She earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Iowa State University, a Master's in Education from Western Illinois University, and dual Bachelor's degrees in Public Relations and Advertising from Northern Arizona University. With experience in higher education, community development, and philanthropic leadership, she has spent more than a decade advancing programs addressing the achievement gap, workforce development, and equity in organizational systems. An advocate for criminal-justice reform and inclusive leadership, Dr. Wilson draws on her research, lived experience and coaching practice to help leaders and organizations move from intention to action.

### **Koren VanderWeele, Senior Program Manager**

Koren VanderWeele is a Senior Program Manager with Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC's) Center for Health and Justice (CHJ), where she leads statewide and national efforts to expand first responder deflection and pre-arrest diversion. She provides training and technical assistance to help communities translate vision into action through effective planning and implementation. Koren is the lead for CHJ's statewide deflection technical assistance center in Illinois, developed by a partnership between the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Police. With a foundation in law enforcement, Koren began her career as a police officer in Roswell, New Mexico, before moving into behavioral health and justice reform. Her career reflects a powerful bridge between the realities of policing and the promise of public health approaches. She has also served as a Technical Assistance Provider for the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP), led statewide deflection planning in Oregon, and helped develop the PTACC Deflection Fellowship Program.