

Speaker Biographies (in order of appearance)

Leon R. McCowan

Leon R. McCowan serves as the ACF Assistant Secretary's representative for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region VI, Dallas, Texas. He provides executive leadership, direction, and coordination for achieving ACF's key national goals, priorities, and special initiatives; advocates for and advances the priorities of the HHS Secretary and ACF Assistant Secretary, and facilitates Administration initiatives to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families, special populations, and distressed communities. He manages and coordinates special sensitive and cross-cutting projects and initiatives such as Healthy Marriage, Fatherhood, and Faith-based Programs in the region, consisting of the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. As Regional Administrator he helps achieve ACF's key national goals and priorities by communicating ACF's regional interests and concerns within HHS, with other Federal agencies, State human service departments and agencies, territorial and tribal governments, and with public and private local organizations that assist children and families. He serves at the Lead Regional Administrator for Positive Youth Development, Child Support Enforcement, Responsible Fatherhood, and ACF's Effective Use of Technology.

With more than 35 years of professional federal service, Mr. McCowan began his career in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. He has held various program and management positions within the Department of Health and Human Services, including: Regional Hub Director, West-Central Hub; Deputy Program Manager for the Office of Family Assistance; and as the Deputy Regional Representative for Child Support Enforcement.

In 2009, Mr. McCowan was awarded the Nancy H. Doherty Special Achievement Award – Federal Employee of the Year. In 2006, he was named "Outstanding Agency Administrator" by the Dallas/Fort Worth 2005 Combined Federal Campaign and presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the HHS Assistant Secretary for his role in the 2005 hurricane relief efforts. He received the HHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service in 2005 for his work as a member of the African American Healthy Marriage Initiative Team and the HHS Assistant Secretary's Partnering for Excellence Award as a member of the Positive Youth Development Team. In 2001, he was recognized with the prestigious "Presidential Rank Award" for Meritorious Executives. Mr. McCowan has been recognized throughout his career with numerous certificates and distinguished service awards for his Federal leadership and his service to the local community and other communities within the Region VI area.

Mr. McCowan received his B.A. in Sociology from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, and his M.A. in Public Administration from the University of North Texas in Denton.

He is married to Curtistene McCowan; they have two married sons and three granddaughters.

David Hansell

David Hansell is the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families, within the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Hansell most recently served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary at ACF from June 2009 to July 2010. From 2007-2009 he served as Commissioner of the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), the state agency charged with oversight of support programs and economic assistance for low-income New Yorkers. From 2002-2006, Mr. Hansell served as Chief of Staff of the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA). From 1997-2001, he was the Associate Commissioner for HIV Services at the New York City Department of Health, and subsequently served as Associate Commissioner for Planning and Program Implementation.

Prior to his government experience, Mr. Hansell served in a range of positions at Gay Men's Health Crisis, including Director of Legal Services and Deputy Director for Government and Public Affairs. From 2000-2006, he was an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the New York University Wagner School of Public Service. He has also been a consultant on health policy and social services issues to a wide range of governmental and non-profit organizations.

Mr. Hansell is a graduate of Haverford College and Yale Law School. Among other honors, he is a recipient of an Outstanding Public Service Award from the New York County Lawyers' Association, and a State Leadership Award from the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty.

CAPT Juliana Sadovich

CAPT Sadovich is the Director of the Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response, Administration for Children and Families (ACF). CAPT Juliana Sadovich also serves as the Designated Federal Officer for the National Commission on Children and Disasters and as such, chairs all meetings and approves all meeting agendas. Prior to joining the ACF, she served at the Department of Homeland Security. One of her jobs at DHS was Director of Emergency Management and Medical Response Integration, Office of Medical Readiness in the Office of Health Affairs. CAPT Sadovich holds a Doctorate in Human Services with a specialty in Health Care Administration from Capella University and a Masters Degree in Nursing with and Education certificate from George Mason University. In addition, she has completed the Joint, Interagency, and Multinational Planner's course, the Joint Operations Medical Managers course, the Homeland Security Medical Executive program and has received the National Emergency Preparedness Award.

LCDR Stacey Bishop

LCDR Bishop is a native of Washington, DC; originally from the Anacostia area now lives in Randallstown, Maryland with her children.

LCDR Bishop earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of the District of Columbia, where she held the highest position of a student: The Student Representative on the University's Board of Trustees. She later earned a Masters Degree from Howard University and was featured in Who's Who among College Students and held the office of President for the School of Social Work Student Government Association. Presently, LCDR Bishop is a Doctoral Candidate at Capella University where she is presently preparing to defend her dissertation.

LCDR Bishop received her commission into the United States Public Health Service, Health Services category in 2000. She assimilated into the Regular Corps in 2006. LCDR Bishop has

served in various leadership roles throughout her career. She is the past president of the DC-Metropolitan chapter of the Commissioned Officer's Association, recorder for the HS-PAC, Chair of the HS-PAC awards sub committee, Social Work PAG- coin designer, appointed discipline liaison, core instructor with the office of force readiness and deployment (OFRD). LCDR Bishop has also received several PHS and non-PHS awards.

LCDR Bishop is currently assigned to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of the Administrator (OA), Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (OHSEPR) where she serves as the team lead for federally funded ACF Disaster Case Management Program providing coordination, capacity building strategies and technical assistance to states.

LCDR Bishop is also very active in the community where she is currently a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), National Trauma Society and a youth mentor and volunteer with the homeless and HIV population. LCDR Bishop is also an active member of the illustrious ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

There is an old adage that says "A people perish for a lack of knowledge". LCDR Bishop's desire is to impart knowledge as she continuously learns herself, and she believes that knowledge is power!

Jill Watson

Jill Watson coordinates Emergency Support Function 6 (ESF-6) Mass Care, Housing and Human Services for the City of Seattle. She is an Emergency Management Planner in Seattle's Human Services Department. Jill coordinates a city-wide ESF-6 group and is chair of the King County Mass Care Workgroup. In addition to leading the Health and Human Services branch in the Seattle Emergency Operations Center, Jill's experience includes developing disaster preparedness activities and managing disaster responses for Feeding America's Western Washington affiliate, Food Lifeline. She also served as one of 10 members of Feeding America's national Disaster Response Task Force. Jill has degrees in Business Management and English from Seattle Pacific University.

James Mendoza

James Mendoza is a graduate of the University of Texas at San Antonio, with a degree in Criminal Justice. James began his career with the San Antonio Police Department. After the 9/11 attacks James was placed on special assignment with the Office of Emergency Management. Shortly thereafter he was hired as the City's first Emergency Management Specialist. James was recently promoted to Asst. Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of San Antonio. James is in charge of the operations function within the Emergency Operations Center, Planning, Training, and Citizen Preparedness. He currently leads the City's efforts towards meeting all national homeland security standards including Homeland Security Presidential Directive -5 and compliance with the National Incident Management System. On February of 2003, CPT James Mendoza, began a 15-month Iraq tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He received numerous awards including the Global War on Terrorism

Expeditionary Medal and the prestigious Bronze Star Medal for heroism in combat. He later received an honorable discharge from the US Army Reserves.

James is a native to San Antonio and is married to Cynthia Mendoza. They have three children.

Andrea Zussman

Andrea Zussman joined The San Francisco Foundation as Disaster Preparedness Project Coordinator in September 2007. In this capacity, she manages the Foundation's activities to strengthen safety net agencies serving vulnerable communities in disaster and coordinates Foundation efforts with other philanthropic organizations, intermediaries, and local government. Prior to her work at the Foundation, she served for seven years as Manager for Emergency Preparedness Education for the American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter where she managed a large-scale personal preparedness educational program, developed curricula and program materials to meet the needs of diverse audiences and vulnerable communities, and established partnerships with community organizations, neighborhoods, businesses, government agencies, and intermediary organizations.

Andrea's professional experience also includes 12 years in the international relief and community development field. Her work included addressing urgent needs in a variety of humanitarian emergencies, such as those in Bosnia and Rwanda, and playing a leadership role in integrating peace and social justice issues into relief and community development work. She also served as Executive Director of a non-profit membership association for professionals in the international relief and development field. Andrea has significant experience working with vulnerable populations and diverse communities and has traveled extensively internationally. She holds a Master of International Affairs degree focused on Economic and Political Development and a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations.

Almeta R. Keys

Almeta R. Keys has over 30 years experience in the field of education with 20 years in the field of early childhood education and currently has been serving as Executive Director for the Edward C. Mazique Parent Child Center, Inc. in Washington, D. C. for the past 2.5 years. She currently supervises 88 full time employees and oversees the operation of 5 Head Start and Early Head Start Centers with a diverse population of 280 children, managing a budget of blended funds in excess of 5 Million. Almeta came to Head Start as a Head Start parent in the St. Mary and Vermilion Parishes Community Action Head Start Program in Franklin, Louisiana. Her first job in Head Start was that of Head Start Director in 1989. Additionally, she is a recognized expert in the areas of Program Administration, Parent Involvement, Governance, and Community Partnerships in Head Start communities across the country. In 2007, she led a group of Head Start leaders from across the country on a tour of the New Orleans Gulf Coast Region area that had been devastated by Katrina, one of the worst hurricanes of the decade. Almeta is also a 1996 Head Start/UCLA/Johnson & Johnson Fellow, where she was selected by her peers to address the entire group as the Class Representative at the graduation ceremony at the Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles, California. Later, in 1998, she received the Head Start/UCLA/J & J Management Improvement Plan (MIP) Award for creating and implementing a plan to bring housing and jobs to Head Start families in St. Mary Parish. Almeta received her A.A. and B.S.

degree in Behavioral Science and her M.Ed. at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (formerly University of Southwestern Louisiana) in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Anne Palmer

Anne Palmer is Deputy Director of Government Operations at the American Red Cross. As Deputy Director, Anne oversees the work of the Red Cross Special Representatives working in FEMA Regional and Area offices. Within Red Cross Disaster Services, Anne also served as the Sheltering and Bulk Distribution Leads in Mass Care and serves as Red Cross Representative to the National Disaster Housing Task Force.

In the decade prior to joining the Red Cross in 2007, Anne served as General Manager of Spartan Stadium in San Jose, California. She has been an active member and leader within the International Association of Assembly Managers (IAAM) since 1997 and served on their Board of Directors and Executive Committee. She currently holds positions on IAAM's Stadiums and Allied Committees. Anne is a graduate of University of Virginia with a BA in English and Psychology.

Jeanne-Aimee De Marrais

Jeanne-Aimee De Marrais is the Director of Save the Children's Domestic Emergencies Unit. She was instrumental in establishing the Unit in 2006. De Marrais serves as Team Leader on Save the Children disaster response teams and manages the US REDI Team's 43 members. She worked for 14 months on the Gulf Coast helping create and lead Save the Children's Hurricane Katrina Response programs in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. She also led Save the Children's responses to: the 2007 Southern California Wildfires; spring 2008 tornadoes in Tennessee and Arkansas, June 2008 mid-western floods in Iowa and Indiana; 2008 Hurricanes Dolly, Gustav and Ike; and the 2009 American Samoa Tsunami.

Judy Bezon

Judy is the Associate Director for Children's Disaster Services (CDS) where responsibilities include program development and expansion; supervision of staff; training, certification and deployment of volunteers; managing inter-agency relations and creating partnerships that expand the capacity of the rapid response program.

Before joining CDS, Judy worked as a School Psychologist, implementing several programs promoting children's mental health and utilizing play therapy techniques with emotionally disturbed children.

Debbie Macdonald

Debbie Macdonald is the Executive Director at the YMCA Childcare Resource Service (YMCA CRS), a department of the YMCA of San Diego County, committed to promoting the well-being of families, children and those who care for them. Under Ms Macdonald's direction, YMCA CRS has increased their budget to \$30 million, spearheaded

technological advancements within the business infrastructure and led advocacy efforts in Sacramento for increased funding for quality child care.

Departments at YMCA CRS are Alternative Payment, Resource and Referral, Special Needs Unit, and HealthLine.

Ms Macdonald is the Vice Chair for the San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council. She is also the chair for the Disaster Preparedness Sub Committee of the Planning Council which she has held for seven years. Ms Macdonald has created collaborations between agencies in San Diego County to work to improve disaster preparedness for the 5,000 licensed child care providers in San Diego County.

In addition to her work at YMCA CRS, Ms Macdonald is actively involved with the California Alternative Payment Program Association (CAPPA) and has chaired several committees that help to increase the quality of child care in San Diego County.

Ms Macdonald has a B.A. from Stanford University, an M.A. from San Francisco State University in Child Development and an MBA from San Diego State University.

Jerry R. Alliston, LMSW, CCM

Jerry R. Alliston, LMSW, CCM has over 20 years experience in the social services and disability fields. Currently, he services as a coordinator at the Institute for Disability Studies (IDS) at The University of Southern Mississippi for the TRIAD (Training, Resources and Information for the Advancement of Degrees) project and the Building Futures Through Person-Centered Planning project. In addition, he serves as adjunct faculty for The University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work and the Department of Child and Family Studies. Mr. Alliston has several years of experience in medical social work, military disability case management, disaster case management, early intervention services, and transition services. He was the coordinator for IDS' Katrina Aid Today project and the Comprehensive Disaster Case Management Training project. He received his bachelor=s degree in Psychology and his master=s degrees in Social Work and will receive his doctoral degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in August. He is a Licensed Master's Level Social Work and a Certified Case Manager.

Victoria Murdy, LCSW

Victoria Murdy, LCSW has over 20 years experience in social services. She has a Master's degree in social work from The University of Southern Mississippi and received her LCSW in 2006. She is currently working on a Ph.D. in Health Psychology from Walden University. Ms. Murdy is an adjunct professor at The University of Southern Mississippi/School of Social Work. Ms. Murdy works at the Institute for Disability Studies as a navigator on the military 360 family support project and supervises the social work students who complete their internships at IDS. MS. Murdy has worked in disaster case management on the Katrina Aid Today project, MCMC project, and the National Disaster Case Management project.

Carol Stachurski, BSW

Carol Stachurski, BSW has over 20 years of experience in the medical field and primarily with the disabled. In addition, she was part of the Katrina relief effort in the states of Florida, Alabama and Louisiana. Ms. Stachurski's relief work started in the mass confusion of Katrina in New Orleans. In the early stage of the relief efforts, she concentrated on working with local groups and getting relief to where it was needed the most. Once things started to come together, she moved onto other parts of Louisiana and Mississippi to assist in organizing relief efforts there. After more than six months of on-the-ground work in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, a special statewide grant became available in her home State of Florida that would allow Ms. Stachurski to continue her relief work with victims of Katrina. She returned to Tallahassee to head up the Katrina Aid Today Program for individuals with disabilities who had evacuated to Florida. Following Hurricane Gustav, Ms. Stachurski participated in a FEMA Disaster Case Management pilot and deployed to Baton Rouge, LA. Today Ms. Stachurski works at the Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc. and continues to be involved in disaster programs by providing input on state legislation, administrative rules, assisting in the development of a website for individuals with disabilities on all types of disasters, with a specific interest in the emergency shelters and special needs shelters in Florida.

David Gallegos

David Gallegos has over 20 years of experience in social services with an emphasis in independent living and employment advocacy. He is currently employed by Advocacy Center in New Orleans as a Program Director. Mr. Gallegos is responsible for overseeing several non-legal programs including Disaster Case Management and served as Advocacy Center's Lead Program Director for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike and Gustav case management programs. His current position is as the Protection and Advocacy Director for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) and Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) programs, both funded by Social Security. Mr. Gallegos is an active member of several disaster-related committees including his membership on the Greater New Orleans Disaster Recovery Partnership (GNODRP) and past member of Long-Term Recovery Committees. He is also the past Vice-Chair of the Brain Injury Association of Louisiana and former Vice-Chair of the Language Access Coalition, and currently serves on the Tulane Children's Health Project Committee.

Jon Bodie

Jon Bodie studied communications at the University of Arkansas; with continued emergency management educational achievements in HAZMAT response (HAZWOPER Technician Level 1 certification - OSHA/NFPA), Radiological Emergency Response (Texas Department of State Health Services) and WMD Incident Management (TEEX - Texas Engineering Extension Service). Jon has also earned independent study credentials in a variety of emergency management areas including ESF-6 Mass Care and ESF-8 Public Health & Medical Services.

Jon has held positions with the BCFS Emergency Services Division in both full time and reservist capacities since October 2008 when he was deployed with the BCFS Incident Management Team during Hurricane Ike Unified Shelter operations on Galveston Island. Since June of 2009 Jon has served the BCFS Emergency Services Division as Medical Sheltering Operations Coordinator

responsible for shelter management training, capacity building and overall shelter operations. Jon's deployment experience includes Hurricane Ike in 2008, the response to the Haiti earthquake in early 2010 and most recently Hurricane Alex.

Prior to joining BCFS, Jon held a research and consulting position for Linco Group LLC, a California-based emergency management training and consulting firm focused on mass fatality preparedness, disaster mortuary services (D-MORT) and critical infrastructure threat assessment. Jon's career experience also includes business development and project management on behalf of AWS Convergence Technologies Inc, a sole-source provider of real-time weather data to the emergency management and first responder fields.

Jon's interest in emergency management began as a volunteer amateur radio operator, NOAA-trained storm spotter and emergency management reservist for the city of Wylie, Texas

Juliet K. Choi, JD

In September 2006, Juliet K. Choi joined the American National Red Cross and currently serves as a member of the Disaster Services leadership team in the capacity of Senior Director for Partner Services, the principle in charge for both overseeing its national strategy for diverse and inclusive private sector partnerships and administrative management of the nation's premiere disaster case management technology consortium called the Coordinated Assistance Network. Formerly, she served at the Asian American Justice Center as the inaugural NAPABA Partners Community Law Fellow and staff attorney where her legal and policy expertise focused on Title VI and language access with an emphasis on healthcare, disaster and the courts. Prior to her legal career, her portfolio includes seven years with the corporate division of Gannett Broadcasting and subsequently as policy director with the National Mental Health Association.

Ms. Choi's current volunteer and leadership efforts include co-chairing the Civil Rights Committee of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and serving on the National Project Advisory Committee on Emergency Preparedness & Cultural Competence to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; board of directors of the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association; and Leadership and Diversity Committee (Civil Policy Group) of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA). In April 2009, she was nominated and accepted to the prestigious American Express Non-profit Leadership Academy and is currently a student member of the Harvard National Preparedness Leadership Initiative. She received her law school's Alumni Association Award for Leadership and Character (2003) and had the special privilege of receiving its Rising Star Alumnus Award (2009). A certified mediator, she served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Dennis M. Sweeney (retired) of the Circuit Court for Howard County, Maryland. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law and received her B.A. in Economics from the University of Virginia.

Nancy Turnbull

Nancy Turnbull brings her many years of experience as an association staff member, executive director, and volunteer to her role as a Voluntary Agency Liaison at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As an association executive, her extensive experience in volunteer and board relations paved the way for her next steps. After more than 20 years with

business associations in Washington, DC and Chicago, Ms. Turnbull joined the Peace Corps and served in Ukraine as a business consultant to an NGO. Her organization conducted conference and seminars for business school faculty throughout Ukraine -- bringing Polish, Canadian and American business school faculty to Ukraine to teach western teaching methods.

She returned to the States the summer of 2005 – just before Hurricane Katrina – and was selected as part of the first group of Peace Corps volunteers to assist FEMA in New Orleans. While serving in New Orleans from October-December of 2005, FEMA recruited her. As a reservist, she worked at numerous disasters in Louisiana, New York, Washington, Nebraska, Iowa and Texas. In 2008, she joined the headquarters staff as a Voluntary Agency Liaison.

Ms. Turnbull received her B.A. from Lake Erie College and attended the U.S. Chamber's Institutes for Organization Management. She works closely the members of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, such as Church World Service and the American Red Cross, as well as other large and small voluntary, faith-based, and community organizations to collaborate in advance of a disaster and to coordinate resources to those with unmet needs after a disaster.

Marcie Roth

Marcie Roth was appointed by President Obama to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Washington, DC in June 2009. She serves as Director of the FEMA Office of Disability Integration and Coordination. She leads the Agency's commitment to meet the access and functional needs of children and adults with disabilities in emergency and disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.

Ms. Roth served as a senior member of the Obama for America - Disability Policy Committee during the 2007-2008 presidential campaign and served on President Obama's Justice and Civil Rights Transition Team. Ms. Roth joined FEMA after serving as President and CEO of Global Disability Solutions Group, leading national and international initiatives with a focus on emergency management and other disability issues. Over the past 20 years, she has held leadership positions with the National Coalition for Disability Rights, National Spinal Cord Injury Association, National Council on Independent Living and TASH. She is known for her work in developing and managing effective coalitions to advance public policy initiatives, and is frequently consulted as an expert on strategic approaches that fully integrate preparedness, response and recovery solutions. Ms. Roth led private sector response to the additional needs of survivors with disabilities during and after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and she was commended by the White House for her efforts on behalf of New Yorkers with disabilities in the aftermath of the 2001 terrorist attacks. Appointed by her Governor as Chairperson of the Maryland Commission on Disabilities, Ms. Roth previously served as the Governor appointed Chair of the Connecticut and Maryland Statewide Independent Living Councils.

In addition to her own personal experience with disability, Ms. Roth is the parent of two children with disabilities, both on their way to achieving independence. She lives outside Washington, DC.

