

Presenters' and Respondents' Biographies

SHARON CHAMARD

Sharon Chamard is an Assistant Professor with the Justice Center. She has conducted research on the diffusion of criminal justice innovations, including crime mapping and problem-oriented policing, and has studied the spatial and temporal distribution of youth violence and sexual assault in Anchorage. Her other research interests include business victimization and community and situational crime prevention. She is currently conducting community surveys in Northeast Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley, assisting the Anchorage Police Department with an evaluation of the Community Action Policing Team, and writing a monograph on police methods for dealing with homeless camps. She has been involved with the Fairview Community Council for five years as secretary, vice-president, and now as president. She is a member of the municipality's Public Safety Advisory Commission and is Secretary of the Board of Directors of NeighborWorks Anchorage. Her Ph.D. is from the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark.

ROB HEUN

Rob Heun has been Chief of the Anchorage Police Department since October 2006. He joined the Anchorage Police Department in August 1983 after serving in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 1982 and graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Rob began his career in the Patrol Division. There he served as a Uniformed Investigator joining as an original member of the newly-formed Homicide Response Team. This team later transitioned as the Major Crimes Response Team, which has been recognized as a national model for major crime scene response and processing.

Promoted to Sergeant in 1991, Rob served as a patrol shift supervisor and later as the Department Training Supervisor. He instructed in firearms, officer survival, defensive tactics and various other classroom subjects.

Rob also served as an officer in the police union for over 16 years, serving as the Negotiating Team Chairman, Vice President for two years and union President for 11 years. While serving as APDEA president, Rob chaired the Coalition of Municipal Unions from 1999 to 2003.

Rob was appointed as Deputy Chief in July 2003 and was responsible for all support services in the department including training, records, dispatch, information systems and the over \$80 million dollar department budget until being appointed Chief in October 2006.

Chief Heun has served on various boards and commissions including the Anchorage Youth Court, the Mayors DUI Task Force, and others.

ROBERT OVERBECK

I was born in Galveston Texas then moved all around and up the Louisiana border. In 1976 I quit high school and joined the Army. By September 1976 I was at my permanent duty station in Germany, on a small NATO site. I then started my big boy drinking career. Trying to stay up with 20, 25 and 30 year old guys drinking, drugging; remember this was the 1970's. I received a couple of Article 15s, which are disciplinary actions, basically fining me pay wise. Right before I was to get discharged I re-enlisted for another 3 years in 1979 as I had no practical job skills or trade. Then I drove across country from Texas to Ft. Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, Indiana where I went to Computer Operator School. I Received orders for Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. During my 3 years stationed at Ft. Leavenworth I received 2 DWI's in one month which got me demoted to PFC. During this time I was required to attend a 60 day outpatient treatment and I agreed to take Antibus. I went home to my small hometown in Texas and had problems finding work. There were no computer jobs at that time which was 1982. I managed to get myself another DWI in 1984. I tried to re-enter the Army but was told I was overweight for my height and needed to lose 20 lbs. After talking to some friends I had been station in Kansas with who had been transferred to Alaska I decided to come up for a visit. I never left. I loved it and had gotten a very position with the University of Alaska Anchorage as a computer operator for 3 years. I was hired by GCI for the same position but got another DWI in 1988. I was so depressed and drinking so much I just didn't go into work and was terminated. Then living off my retirement from UAA I just took 5 or 6 months off and spent almost all that money. Before I was broke I took a job with CSC, a big computer contractor with the Forrest Service in Juneau. I immediately asked for a transfer back to Anchorage because it was just too expensive for my salary, which mostly went to alcohol. I was in Juneau 6 months almost to the day and that contract ended anyway. They transferred me back to Anchorage with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). I ended up marrying one of my coworkers who then went on to make supervisor which in turn denied me a promotion. This is when my wife and I were deep into cocaine and I was drinking more. I tried treatment twice and used the last time as an excuse to leave her. So we separated and she found a boyfriend and moved to Sterling. I was still at BLM for awhile but was transferred to the Army Corp of Engineers on Elmendorf AFB. It was a big promotion for me. March 5th 1996 my wife was killed by her boyfriend, but I didn't find out until a few days after she was dead. I took this very hard and took a lot of time off taking care of her business as we were still married. I took TOO much time and eventually was let go. I was drinking more than ever and back into the cocaine. I came into money from selling her house and my retirement, PFD's and unemployment. Then that ran out and I found myself at Bean's café. I thought you HAD to be drunk to be there. I met a Vietnam veteran who took me under his wing. I told myself I'll just have a good time for the summer then buckle down. That turned into 9 years on and off. Four or five different treatment programs and detox centers, sleeping in laundry rooms, abandoned houses, emergency rooms or the CSP Transfer station 30 nights in a row and both shelters. My then girlfriend stabbed me in the head and that's when I decided I had enough. I wanted a life, vacation, and a vehicle. I didn't want to depend on the city, state or federal government to take care of me anymore. I took responsibility for my own life. There are many, many stories of violence and near death experience I haven't included in this short bio. In 2006 I was offered a job by the same agency that helped me sober up and stay sober: ACMHS/Pathways II. This was a great boost to my self esteem and helped very much. In 2007 I took a job with the Federal Government, helping others who are where I was then. It is very rewarding and satisfying knowing I am doing something to help people. So here I am, 2 ½ years later, gainfully employed, housed and healthy.

GLORIA O'NEILL

Ms. O'Neill is originally from Soldotna and is of Yupik/Irish descent. Gloria began working at Cook Inlet Tribal Council more than fifteen years ago, holding many different positions in the agency before her 1998 appointment to President/CEO. Under Gloria's guidance, the organization's annual budget has grown from \$8.8 million to nearly \$46 million, reflecting the expansion of innovative services to assist people in Anchorage and the Cook Inlet Region to achieve self-sufficiency.

Gloria is very active in civic and community affairs within Anchorage, statewide and on a national basis. She currently serves as a board member of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, Anchorage Museum, Anchorage Community Land Trust, University of Alaska Anchorage Advisory Board, and the U.S. Census Bureau Advisory Committee on Race and Ethnicity for American Indian and Alaska Native Populations.

Among her accomplishments, Ms. O'Neill received a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Alaska Pacific University in 2000. Awards include Light of Hope 2003; Athena Society Member 2001 from the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce for her outstanding leadership, excellence, and dedication to promoting women in business; United States President's Environmental Youth Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's for CITC's Summer Youth Camp at Ninilchik; and "Alaska's Top Forty Under 40" from the Alaska Journal of Commerce 1998. Most recently, Gloria was recognized by BP and the YWCA of Anchorage as a Woman of Achievement 2004.

While Gloria O'Neill has helped to build an organization that embraces modern technology and innovative business practices, she never loses sight of the importance of the traditional values embedded in Alaska Native culture.

ANNE DENNIS-CHOI

Anne has 14 years experience in residential care - including intensive residential treatment for youth, emergency shelter care for kids birth through age 11, and substance abuse/co-occurring disorders residential treatment for men and women. Within residential settings, she has worked as a milieu front line staff, milieu shift leader, clinical therapist, program director, and most recently as Executive Director for Clitheroe Center.

She has extensive experience in community mental health services within the child and family continuum of care, working with youth that experienced severe emotional disturbances and their families. Anne oversaw the outpatient clinic, home based and school based services, assessment services, and parent education/advocacy program for parents diagnosed with a severe mental illness.

Other experience includes oversight of family preservation/reunification and supervised visitation services for OCS referred families, pregnant teens program in affiliation with ASD that included specialized parenting curriculum and a licensed newborn nursery, prenatal and parenting education for low income families, day treatment for youth referred through DJJ, and substance abuse outpatient services for adolescents.

Anne has B.A.s in biology and psychology from Gonzaga University and an MS in Counseling Psych from the University of LaVerne. She is a licensed professional counselor with supervisor credentials.

ANNA SAPPAH

Anna Sappah is the Executive Director of the Substance Abuse Directors Association of Alaska, Inc. (SADA). She also works for Akeela Inc, in their Smokefree Alaska Project as a Tobacco Policy Specialist. She is of Alutiiq heritage and was born and raised in Anchorage. Anna has been employed by SADA since 2007. A current beneficiary member on the Governors Advisory Board for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ABADA), Anna has been actively involved in the recovery community for more than thirteen years and specifically involved in substance abuse treatment advocacy for more than eight years. She is a trainer and board member for the Meeting the Challenge, an advocacy training program for consumers, that is sponsored by SADA. She brings many years experience and working relationships within the field of substance abuse issues in Alaska. Anna is a student at Alaska Pacific University in the Human Services Program.

HEATHER HANDYSIDE

Heather Handyside is the deputy municipal manager for Anchorage. She was previously the Director of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, and in that role was responsible for all community security policy, homeland security grant investments and emergency management programs. Through her guidance, city employees have accumulated more than 10,000 hours of disaster management training over the past four years.

Handyside began working for the Municipality in 2001 as the director of Community Relations for Mayor George Wuerch. In that role Handyside developed public safety activities for neighborhood residents with crime concerns, coordinated the city's Sept. 11, 2002 remembrance activities, and managed the AWARE (Anchorage Watchful, Alert and Ready for Emergencies Program) program which provided disaster preparedness training for more than 2,000 Anchorage citizens.

Handyside has served on the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) Executive Council since 2004. This statewide group is responsible for the oversight of the Alaska Land Mobile Radio Project, a \$100 million interoperable radio project partnership with the Department of Defense, the State of Alaska, federal response agencies and local governments. She is also a project leader for the \$22 million Anchorage Wide Area Radio Network (AWARN).

WILLIAM H. HOGAN

William H. (Bill) Hogan was appointed Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services July 24, 2008, after serving as Acting Commissioner since May. Hogan has worked for the department since April 2003. He previously served as Deputy Commissioner from September 2005 to May 2008, and as Director of the Division of Behavioral Health from April 2003 to September 2005.

Mr. Hogan has spent more than 30 years in the mental health, substance abuse, developmental disabilities and social work fields, with experience as a clinician, supervisor and administrator. Before joining the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in 2003, he was Chief Executive Officer of Life Quest, a private, nonprofit community mental health center located in Wasilla, Alaska.

Hogan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from State University of New York and a Master of Science in Social Work from West Virginia University. Hogan has served as chair of the Alaska

Mental Health Board, board member of the Alaska Community Mental Health Services Association and Executive Director of the New York State chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

JEFF JESSEE

Jeff Jessee currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (the Trust). The Trust is a federally created state corporation with assets of over \$470 million and 1,000,000 acres of land. The Trust operates much like a private foundation and uses its resources to ensure that Alaska has a comprehensive integrated mental health program. The beneficiaries of the Trust include people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, chronic alcoholics and seniors with Alzheimer's or related dementias.

Jeff began his career in 1980 as the staff attorney for Alaska's protection and advocacy agency for people with disabilities. As the senior attorney for that agency, he represented hundreds of individuals and was involved in many successful statewide task forces and committees working to develop collaborative approaches to issues such as deinstitutionalization, guardianship, civil commitment, funding formulas, special education and housing.

In 1985, Jeff represented a subclass in litigation over the state's mismanagement of the Alaska mental health land trust created by the Federal government before statehood. His prime responsibility was to forge a coalition of interested parties including consumers, developers, environmentalists, tourism interests, and others to construct a settlement which would pass the legislature and be approved by the court. After approval of the settlement in 1995, Jeff became the Chief Executive Officer of the Trust. In addition to serving as a leader and advocate for Trust beneficiaries, Jeff is responsible for leveraging Trust income and developing partnerships to enhance mental health services.

MIKE HAWKER

Mike Hawker (R) has represented District 32 (Anchorage) in the Alaska State House since 2002. He was previously a Certified Public Accountant and a management consultant. Currently, he serves on the House Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget and Audit Committees, and is chair of the House Finance Subcommittees on Corrections and Health and Social Services. He is involved in a variety of community organizations including Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC), the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum, the Alaska Airman's Association, the Alaska Chapter of the Isaak Walton League, the Alaska Gun Collectors Association, and the Harley Davidson Owners' Group. Rep. Hawker has a B.A. in Accounting and Humanities from the University of Northern Iowa. He has lived in Anchorage since 1979.

LES GARA

Les Gara (D) has represented District 23 (Anchorage) in the Alaska State House since 2002. His committee memberships include House Finance and the Finance Subcommittees on Administration and Environmental Conservation. He has lived in Anchorage since 1989. He has a B.A. from Boston University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. He was a law clerk for Justice Jay Rabinowitz of the Alaska Supreme Court and served as an Assistant Attorney General.