Tyler Allen is the Title IV-E Waiver Administrator for Colorado’s Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare. For the past 13 years, Tyler has served the needs of Colorado youth and families in a variety of settings at a variety of levels, including direct care in both inpatient and outpatient settings, among child welfare and judicially involved populations; as well as fulfilling supervisory functions and grant management. Tyler has contributed to a number of federal evaluation efforts and is passionate in his desire to better serve the children and families of Colorado.

Maryls Baker is the Child Protective Services Administrator of the Children and Family Services Division with the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

Shannon Christensen is the Project Coordinator for the Mountain Plains Prevention Technology Transfer Center (MP-PTTC), which is located at the University of Utah. She has over 5 years of treatment and prevention of substance use disorders experience. She is very passionate about providing the skills, resources, and tools to prevention and treatment providers/specialists in order to help the youth and early adolescents in their community make healthier and safer decisions around substance use.

David Conrad, a Bismarck native, has been a clinical social worker for over 30 years. He has worked in a variety of fields including juvenile and adult corrections, child welfare, hospital social work and adoptions. From 1991-1994, he was supervisor of the ongoing child protection unit at Burleigh County Social Services. From 1994-2000, he was Director of Programs for the CIVITAS Child Trauma Program in Houston, Texas. Since 2000, David has been a secondary trauma consultant for the Colorado Division of Child Welfare assisting Colorado child protection staff with their acute trauma and providing trauma prevention training. He is currently a Senior Clinical Instructor with Distinction in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He co-authored an article titled, Compassion Fatigue, Burnout and Compassion Satisfaction among Colorado Child Protection Workers, which appeared in the October 2006 issue of the International Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect. David has been serving as the consultant for the North Dakota Secondary Trauma Education, Prevention and Support Program since 2012.

Kristen Cox, is the Executive Director of the Utah Governor’s Office of Management and Budget (GOMB). Appointed to the position by Governor Herbert in 2012, she has worked diligently to integrate operational excellence with the state’s management and budgeting practices.

The mission of GOMB is to create more value for every tax dollar invested. Under Kris’ leadership, Utah improved government performance by more than 27 percent by January 2017, exceeding the 25 percent goal set by Governor Herbert. The work to improve government is never over, and Utah’s state agencies continue to set new targets in an effort to continually improve performance.

Prior to her time at GOMB, Kris served as the executive director of the Department of Workforce Services (DWS). Kris has also worked as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities, was appointed to a position with the Department of Education by President George W. Bush and held numerous positions with the National Federation of the Blind.

Kris has been honored with many awards for her work, including a Salt Lake Chamber Pathfinder Award, Gold Stevie Lifetime Achievement Award and recognition as a 2016 Governing Magazine public official of the year. Another one of Kris’ exciting achievements is co-authoring “Stop Decorating the Fish,” a business fable that teaches an important lesson about how to affect positive change in the workplace.

Stephanie DeCoteau is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, mother of two sons ages 18 and 10, and Director of the Native American Training Institute in Bismarck, ND. She previously
worked at the Turtle Mountain Community College for 18 years and has experience in workforce training, career & technical education, student support services, and as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the Turtle Mountain Vocational Rehabilitation Program. She has also worked with the Native American Rights Fund and in research at the Oregon Social Learning Center. Native issues have been a focus of her education and career with a special interest in the effects of historical trauma and healing in Native communities. Stephanie earned her Master of Social Work in August 2018 from the University of North Dakota and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Oregon in 1998.

**Rori Douros** is currently the Assistant Project Coordinator for the Mountain Plains Prevention Technology Transfer Center (MP-PTTC) at the University of Utah. She has over 15 years of prevention experience and is very passionate about preventing substance-use disorders before they start as well as preventing the disorders from getting worse.

**Ida Drury**, PhD, MSW (U. of North Dakota, Department of Social Work), has over a decade of experience in child welfare, from frontline worker to state administration to consulting and research. She is an assistant professor at the University of North Dakota Department of Social Work. Previously, she served as a Sr. Instructor on the faculty at the Kempe Center for the Prevention of and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect in Aurora, Colorado. Prior to that, she was a child welfare policy and research analyst for the Colorado Department of Human Services, the CAPTA manager, and the QIC-DR site implementation director in Colorado. Her research interests include preparation, education, and performance of the child welfare workforce as well as emotional labor in public service.

**Jenn Grabar**, LSW, is the Assistant Child Protection Services Administrator with the North Dakota Department of Human Services. She is a Bismarck native and obtained her Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Mary. Jenn began her Social Work career at Sioux County Social Services in 2002 and has since worn many hats within Region 7 child welfare including Child Protection Services, Foster Care, In-Home Case Management and Regional Representative. Jenn has devoted her professional career to child safety and well-being, specifically the recognition of child abuse and neglect through comprehensive assessment; reducing the risk for child maltreatment; and interventions to protect children from harm. She is the Coordinator for the Child Fatality Review Panel, reviewing all child deaths and child abuse and neglect near deaths. On a personal note, Jenn is a mother of three living children, all girls, and is often found cheering them on at the hockey rink, soccer and lacrosse field and volleyball court.

**Dr. Christine Harsell** is an Adult Nurse Practitioner and Medical Director at Valley Community Health Centers in Grand Forks, ND. She has been in primary care practice since 2008 and most recently worked with a team to bring medication-assisted treatment to the clinic. Chris is also a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of North Dakota College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines. As a faculty member at UND, Chris was project director for SAMHSA funded grant that infused SBIRT into nurse practitioner and social work masters curricula. She most recently began work with the Region 8: Mountain Plains Addiction Technology Transfer where she serves as the opioid treatment provider workgroup facilitator.

**Christina Hemmer**, LPCC, ND Certified Clinical Supervisor has practiced in the behavioral health field since 2000, supporting youth and families in residential and outpatient settings who have complex needs related to traumatic experiences, mental health, and addiction. Christina holds master’s degrees in counseling and in business and is Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC). She has spent her career meeting individuals, both clients and employees, where they are and helping them shape their goals. With a special place in her heart for working with adolescents, Christina uses a variety of therapy approaches based on the needs and preferences of the individual. Traditional therapy approaches are often augmented to include sensory-based interventions such as movement, mindfulness, music, play, video games, and virtual reality. As a Certified Clinical Supervisor, Christina provides approved supervision hours for North Dakota counselors working towards their LPC/LPCC advancement. She enjoys training other professionals and has presented at numerous regional and national conferences on topics including Trauma-Informed Care practices, Suicide Prevention, and Community Based Treatment. Christina is a Vice President at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch where she provides administrative and clinical oversight to psychiatric and group care residential programs in Minot, Fargo and Bismarck, North Dakota. She is also Vice President of Dakota Family Services, an outpatient clinic founded by the Ranch. She is married and has two children. In the warmer months, she can be found camping alongside a lake in Minnesota.
Dorothy Henry, Community Organizer, Turtle Mountain Healing Spirits, Dorothy Henry worked for the Turtle Mountain Home Visiting Program prior to accepting her current role as the Turtle Mountain Innovation Project’s Community Organizer. In this role, she facilitates community events that focus on raising awareness of trauma-informed concepts while promoting healing. She has received training in Parents as Teachers, Healthy Relationships, Positive Indian Parenting, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), NEAR@Home, Trauma-Informed Care, and Revitalizing Our Language. These experiences have ignited her passion to create change by empowering her community to heal from within. Dorothy is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.

Jennifer Horning is a seasoned leader in the addiction care field and has more than 15 years of counseling services experience, including leading a treatment center program for more than five years. She leads operations and peer coaching for Face It TOGETHER across the state of North Dakota. Previously, Horning served as county director for Benson County Social Services in Devils Lake, ND. Before that, she helped manage a treatment facility in Parker, CO, starting as a counselor and working her way up to program director. Horning is focused on building strong partnerships with the private, public and social sectors in order to meet the growing need for addiction support in North Dakota.

Christopher D. Jones, Executive Director of the North Dakota Department of Human Services. Jones officially joined the department and the Governor’s cabinet in March 2017. He brings 19 years of experience in health service operations, strategy, technology and consulting to his role as DHS Executive Director. Jones was previously a division senior vice president of strategy and business development for Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), an enterprise with more than $15 billion in annual revenue and over 100 hospitals across 18 states, including CHI St. Alexius Health in Bismarck. Prior to that role, he spent several years as a manager, director and analyst in CHI’s Strategy and Business Development function and worked as a consultant for Allina Health System and Vizient. Jones earned his master of business administration degree from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, and has undergraduate degrees in health care administration and Scandinavian studies from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn.

The department oversees Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (Healthy Steps), economic assistance programs including Child Care Assistance, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; Child Support; Aging Services; Children and Family Services including child protection, family preservation services, foster care, and adoption; Vocational Rehabilitation; Developmental Disabilities Services; the Life Skills and Transition Center, and Behavioral Health Services, which include the Behavioral Health Division, the North Dakota State Hospital, and the eight regional human service centers.

Liz Kemp is a Chaffee Independent Living Coordinator for Region Four of North Dakota through PATH Inc. She recently transferred from Region three, working seven years as the Independent Living Coordinator there. She enjoys working closely with youth and seeing them thrive. Being a part of the North Dakota Youth Board has been one most eye opening experiences while working for PATH. Their passion to advocate for other youth is inspiring.

Tom Kopp has been working in the behavioral health and services field since 2006, with a focus on helping youth and their families cope with their past trauma, and behaviors resulting from that trauma. He started in direct care at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in 2011, where he has moved through the ranks from direct care staff to case manager, to treatment manager, and now to Director of Residential Services. In his current role, Tom oversees the Ranch’s two Fargo residential facilities and the Ranch HOME at Northgate program in Minot. Tom was instrumental in the planning and creation of the HOME program. Before launching the program in 2018, Tom spent a year working with a national cohort to learn about other independent living programs throughout the United States. Tom is married and has three amazing children. He looks forward to any time he can leave his house and not see snow.

Nicole Leitner is a Court Officer III for the North Dakota Supreme Court Unit 2 Juvenile Court. She has been employed as a Court Officer for 22 years.

Sarah Massey graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a minor in English, from the University of Mary. She has 14 years of teaching experience in multiple sectors of education. She worked at Theodore Jamerson
Elementary School (K-7), on the United Tribes Technical College campus. She served as the 21st Century After School Coordinator, Physical Education and Health Educator, English Language Learner Educator and as the Seventh-grade teacher for her last 6 years at the school. Sarah is currently the Director of the Infant & Child Death Services Program (Division of Injury & Violent Prevention) and the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) School Health Specialist (Division of Family Health & Nutrition). Both divisions are a part of the Healthy & Safe Communities Section, at the ND Department of Health. She works to promote safe sleep practices and educate families on prevention methods to reduce Sudden Unexplained Infant Deaths across ND. As the MCH School Health Specialist she works across the state on the prevention of overweight/obesity, increased physical activity and nutrition amongst the youth in ND. Sarah’s passion are her family and friends. Along with her husband Todd, they enjoy traveling, boating and shared kitchen time! She is the mother of Kade and Saige, and a stepmother of three.

Dr. Andrew McLean is Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He is also a physician surveyor for The Joint Commission. He obtained his medical degree from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, completed a psychiatry residency at the University of Wisconsin and an M.P.H. degree from the University of Minnesota. He is the recipient of a number of awards, including the UND School of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award, the American Psychiatric Association Bruno Lima award for outstanding contributions to Disaster Psychiatry, and teaching excellence awards. Dr. McLean previously was the Medical Director of the ND Department of Human Services. He has served on a number of clinical, administrative and regulatory boards including medical licensing and professional health programs. He has lectured internationally on pertinent behavioral and public health issues. Dr. McLean has a particular interest in working with and advocating for individuals with serious and persistent behavioral health issues. He also is interested in individual and community resilience.

Tracy Miller is the Family Preservation Administrator of the Children and Family Services Division with the North Dakota Department of Human Services

Tara Lea Muhlhauser, LSW, JD is the Project Coordinator the “New” Children’s Caucus Bush Foundation Innovations Grant, and a Family Law Mediator in Bismarck, ND.

North Dakota Youth Leadership Board is made up of five young people who are currently in foster care or who are foster care alumni who aged out of the system. The young people represent North Dakota, sharing their ideas and standing up for their peers currently in foster care.

Sherrice Roness is the Students in Transition Coordinator or Homeless Liaison for Bismarck Public Schools. She has been in this position for 3.5 years. She is a LSW in ND. All 19 years of her career have been dedicated to working with at risk youth and their families. She has worked in multiple positions including a School Social Worker on the Standing Rock Reservation, South Central Juvenile Drug Court, Burleigh County Social Services, and a Guardian ad Litem for youth. Sherrice has become a huge advocate for the children experiencing homelessness and strives to be their voice for what is in their best interest. Sherrice has been married to her husband, Justin, for almost 21 years, and they have two children together. Kaden, 14, and Kynzlee, 7. She also has a stepdaughter who is 25.

Jose Saez is a Chaffee Independent Living Coordinator for Region Five of North Dakota through PATH Inc. He obtained his B.S. in Community Health from Minnesota State University Moorhead. Jose has more than 10 years of experience working with children and families in community-based services; including having developed Independent Living programming at Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota. Jose coordinates and advocated for the North Dakota Youth Leadership Board. The ND Youth Leadership Board is make up of five young people who are currently in foster care or who are foster care alumni and have aged out of the ND system. The young people represent North Dakota, sharing their ideas, and standing up for their peers who too are in foster care. Jose currently resides in Fargo. In addition to his duties at PATH, he also coaches football for the Fargo Park District.

Lauren Sauer is the Assistant Director of the Children and Family Services Division with the North Dakota Department of Human Services. Among his varied duties with Children and Family Services, Mr. Sauer is the Continuous Quality Improvement Administrator, overseeing implementation of a CQI process within the public child welfare system in North Dakota. Prior to joining CFS, he worked for 27 years in the behavioral health field
in various direct service and administrative positions. Mr. Sauer has Master’s Degree in both Clinical Counseling and Public Administration.

**Dr. Maridee Shogren** is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of North Dakota and Certified Nurse-Midwife in clinical practice at Valley Community Health Centers in Grand Forks, ND. Dr. Shogren has been a faculty member at UND College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines since 2008 and currently serves as full time graduate faculty. Dr. Shogren has extensive knowledge regarding rural health systems, the use of SBIRT and interprofessional education and training. She has practiced as a nurse-midwife in a variety of settings including private practice, rural health clinics, family planning and federally qualified health centers where she shares her passion for women’s health with her colleagues and her patients. Dr. Shogren has been a regional nurse consultant with the Frontier Regional FASD Training Center and assisted with development, implementation, and evaluation of educational curricula regarding FASD prevention and identification, which utilized SBIRT. Dr. Shogren has also been involved in SAMHSA funded grant work at UND where she spent three years on the interprofessional SBIRT training grant and most recently began work with the Region 8: Mountain Plains Addiction Technology Transfer Center and the Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center grant teams, both housed at UND.

**Heather Simonich, M.A.** earned her Master’s Degree in Counseling Psychology from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. She currently serves as an Operations Director for PATH; a treatment foster care and family-based services organization located in Fargo, North Dakota. Previously, Heather spent 14 years with the Neuropsychiatric Research Institute where she served as the Program Coordinator and Trainer for the Treatment Collaborative for Traumatized Youth (TCTY). She routinely provides trauma-informed care training and consultation to child-serving organizations across the state of North Dakota. Most recently, Heather partnered with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and the Mid-Dakota Education Cooperative to develop and disseminate a trauma-sensitive school professional development curriculum for educators. She is a 2012 Bush Leadership Fellow and a Licensed Professional Counselor.

**Sarah Stolt** is the Transformation Manager of the Children and Family Services Division with the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

**Sandra Tibke**, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota Sandra has been PCAND’s Executive Director since January 2015. Prior to joining the organization, she worked primarily in the areas of strategic planning and project management. She has been a strong advocate for children and families, both professionally and as an elected commissioner for the city of Mandan. She earned her M.A. in sociology from the University of North Dakota and her street smarts from the lessons she learned growing up on Minnesota’s Iron Range.

**Diana Weber** is the Well-Being Administrator of the Children and Family Services Division with the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

**Jade Woodard** has served as the Executive Director of Illuminate Colorado since its inception in 2015, following 7 years as the Executive Director of founding partner agency, the Colorado Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. Prior to this work, she provided family support services in a variety of settings to families impacted by homelessness, domestic violence, and substance use disorders. Jade has a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. She is responsible for all program and financial oversight, including staff and contractor management, adherence to timelines, and accomplishment of goals and objectives. Jade capitalizes on her collaborative nature and strong communication skills to ensure successful project execution and sustainability. As the Executive Director of Illuminate Colorado, she has participated in and led many state level initiatives related to substance use, child maltreatment, child maltreatment prevention, public awareness, and collaborative community approaches.