2012 9th Annual Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference

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Speaker Biographies

**Claude L. Cox (Spokane Tribe)**

Claude Cox has served as the Chairman of the Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council since 2008, a consortium of 26 Tribal Nations throughout Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska. Mr. Cox is also serving as the interim Chairman of the National Tribal Emergency Management Council. Mr. Cox is also currently serving as the Chairman of the Spokane Tribal Enterprise Corporation and the Tosha Director for the Spokane Tribe. Claude is responsible for emergency management, risk management, benefits management, safety lost control, and corporate operations. Prior to his current role, he had served as a Disaster Assistance Employee to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, was President of the Washington Counties Risk Pool and Risk Manager for the Spokane County Safety Department. Claude Cox is a proud enrolled member of the Spokane Tribe.

**Marilyn M. Scott (Whe-Che-Litsa) Tribal Vice-Chairman (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe)**

She was raised from birth by her Maternal Grandparents. She credits their traditional values and upbringing for her wisdom and encouragement she has to serve the people of her tribe and all of Indian Country. She has served on the Upper Skagit Tribal Council for 23 years. She has served as the Chairwoman of her tribe for 10 years.She is proud to have worked for 15 years as Commercial Fisherman with her family business on the waters of Washington in the Tribal Usual & Accustomed territory. She has served her tribe as the Health & Social Services Administrator for 20 years and currently serves the tribal council as the Policy Analyst for Health, Education and Employment. She has over the years had the opportunity to have many former Tribal leaders as mentors, (Joe Delacruz, Mel Tonasket, Robert Joe “WaWalton” to name a few). Throughout her tenure she has served on numerous local, regional and national board, committees and commissions.

She has served for 10 years as the Chairman of the American Indian Health Commission of Washington. She is actively serving as the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe representative on: DSHS Indian Policy Committee, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, Northwest Washington Tribal Health Board, and the Washington State Tribal leaders Association. She has received numerous acknowledgements and awards in recognition of her contributions for Health Advocacy on behalf of Indian Country. In 2003 she was one of five (5) recipients of the Virginia Mason Celebrating Women Night in recognition for her Tribal Leadership in Health for the tribes of Washington. She received the Luna Wessel Leadership Award, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board Delegate of the Year and in 2011 she received the National Indian Health Board Regional Impact Award for work on Health Reform on behalf of tribes of the Portland Area.

Steven M. Golubic

Mr. Steve Golubic currently serves as the first Director of Tribal Affairs in the Intergovernmental Affairs Office of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In that position, he oversees the department wide DHS Tribal Consultation Policy and ensures all component agencies within DHS are fulfilling their responsibilities toward tribal consultation. He advises the DHS Secretary’s Office on tribal issues for establishing, maintaining, and coordinating a nation-to-nation, federal-tribal relationship.

Mr. Golubic previously served as the National Tribal Liaison, at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Headquarters, in Washington, DC. In that position he served as a liaison, on behalf of the Agency, with tribes, state and local officials. He was the primary advisor to the FEMA Administrator on outreach activities related to tribal officials, tribal organizations, and tribal associations. He participated in special projects to develop, recommend, and implement proactive long and short term strategies for tribal activities related to the Agency’s mission, program policies and initiatives. As a liaison, he also provided technical assistance and cultural awareness training to FEMA regional and field staff. He is an adjunct instructor at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland teaching the tribal specific curriculum.

Mr. Golubic also served in field positions for the Agency, during Presidentially declared disasters, to ensure that tribes and their communities expeditiously received Federal disaster assistance to help them rebuild their lives and their communities.

Before joining FEMA, Mr. Golubic spent more than two years as the Homeland Security Director at Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. His career also includes nearly 20 years as a county emergency management director, safety consultant with Wausau Insurance, Director of the Wisconsin Council of Safety and Executive Director of Wisconsin Operation Lifesaver. Mr. Golubic also served on the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA) as a regional representative and also as president. During his tenure on the WEMA Board, he was instrumental in amending the by-laws to include tribal representation as a voting member of the board of directors.

**Richard Flores, Special Advisor for National Tribal Affairs**

**W.C.Vanderwagen**

Dr. Craig Vanderwagen is a senior partner with Martin, Blanck, and Associates who joined the firm on November 1, 2009. His most recent assignment prior to joining MBA was the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response for the US Department of Health and Human Services. He has special interests and experience in bio defense, domestic disaster preparedness and response, international humanitarian and disaster response, federal health delivery systems, innovative organization development and evaluation, and cross cultural health care. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the International Center for Infectious Diseases, a Canadian NGO, an advisor to the International Federation of Biosafety Associations, and the American Academy of Disaster Medicine. He is also on the editorial board of the AMA *Journal of Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*.

From August, 2006 until July, 2009, Dr. Vanderwagen was the founding Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this role he was responsible for the leadership and development of a new organization whose mission was preparing the Nation for response and recovery from public health and other health disasters whether natural or manmade. The organization was initiated after hurricane Katrina and formalized after the passage of the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act. The Act empowered the ASPR as the lead for all federal public health and medical response in disasters. It also initiated the Biomedical Acquisition, Research, and Development Authority for the development and acquisition of medical countermeasures (preventives, treatments, and diagnostics) for the civilian population. Lastly the funding of grants for development of state and local hospital preparedness activities became a major element of the preparedness activities in ASPR.

Dr. Vanderwagen had a distinguished 28 year career in public service as a commissioned officer in the United States Public Health Service (USPHS), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). His assignments prior to becoming Assistant Secretary included many deployments in disaster environments. These included lead federal health official in Louisiana after Katrina from August-November, 2005; lead public health official and senior officer aboard the USNS Mercy in Indonesia after the tsunami in 2005; Director of Primary Care and Public Health for the Ministry of Health in Iraq from September 2003-March, 2004; consultant to the Pan American Health Organization in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch in 1999; and Medical Director for Project Provide Refuge (joint DOD-HHS Kosovar refugee assistance) in 1999.

These deployed assignments however were in addition to his regular duties in the Indian Health Service where during his 25 years of service, he held a number of responsible positions and was the agency’s Chief Medical Officer as his last assignment. During his career with Indian Health Service, Dr. Vanderwagen provided leadership in the uses of electronic health records, implementation of the use of best practices to combat chronic diseases, and was an early supporter of, and the agency’s lead negotiator for a majority of the early Self Governance Compacts. Dr. Vanderwagen is a family physician who believes passionately in the union of public health and clinical medicine. He and his wife of 38 years have 3 grown sons and two grandchildren.

**Del Ostenberg**

Del Ostenberg: Risk Management Safety and Compliance Officer/Emergency Manager for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation since January 2008. And Vice-Chairman for the Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council for the past 3 years.

I worked for the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs for 34 years. During that time I have worked in Fire Control, Forestry and Fire Management. I started as a fireguard for Fire Control, which ranged from fighting fire to manning Lookouts all across the reservation. I worked in most all aspects of forestry from production log scaling to writing appraisals for timber sales. The last 16 years have been in Fire Management as a Training Officer. This included the instruction of a large variety of Wildland fire classes. These classes have included Interagency Training for Local areas as well as National training courses. I have attended and assisted instruction of a number of classes on the Incident Command System up to thru 400 levels (National Multi-Agency Coordination Group). Also Fire Investigation and various safety classes. I was part of the team that developed the National Incident Qualification System computer program, for all risk at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, which was implemented in 2001.

Qualified in the following Wildland fire positions, Fire Fighter, Crew boss, Dozer boss, Engine Boss, Strike Team dozer-engine-crew Task Force Leader, Division Group Supervisor, Incident Commander (Type 3, 4, 5,), Fire Investigator type I, II and III, Safety Officer Type II,III,IV and V on fires all over the United States. Worked with several Prevention and Type I and II Incident Management Teams, Both on and off the reservation, from Alaska to Florida.

I am Emergency Medical Technician for the Colville Tribal Fire and Rescue for 34 years, part of the CISM Critical Incident Stress Management Debriefing team For 15 Years, Member of the Search and rescue team for 35 years. I have been a part of the reservation safety committee for 20 years. And was Chairman for the Mount Tolman Complex Safety committee up till I was elected chairman for CCT Safety Committee for 10 years. As the Chairman working with all the departments of the Tribe, we development of the Comprehensive Emergency Management plan for the Colville Indian Reservation. As well as several associated plans.

**Glenn Zaring**

Glenn C. Zaring has spent the last seven years as Director for the Office of Public Affairs for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians creating a functioning Information Office handling tribal communications and public affairs.

As part of his duties, he has headed up the Emergency Management efforts at the tribe where they have created a Tribal Emergency Response Team, an Incident Command Team, a CERT unit and a functioning Emergency Operations Center (backup to the County EOC).

Zaring has helped LRBOI to become NIMS compliant and to establish approved All Hazards Plans, Mitigation Plans and COOP. The tribal government has MOU’s in place with the State and County for Emergency Management and is a signatory to MEMAC. The LRBOI team is a participating partner in Region 7 activities and holds a seat on the Regional Planning Team. Zaring is also the elected secretary to the Manistee County LPT and LEPC.

Zaring is a professional Public Information Officer who over his career served in the USAF in West Berlin, Germany with the Security Police and then AFTV. He has been a news broadcaster (TV and Radio), editorial columnist and Associate Professor of Business. For three years he was a speaker with the American Security Council dealing with US/Soviet issues. He sits on a number of non-profit boards in the Midwest. His wife of 29 years, Catherine, is Mayor-Pro Tem for the City of Manistee.

**James Akerelrea**

James Akerelrea served in the Army National Guard for 13 yrs as a finance Specialist, have a degree in humanities, concentrating in economic, minor in psycology and sociology. James is also currently on Tribal Council for the Scammon Bay Tribe, Tribal Judge, Scammon Bay’s appointee to the NWTEMC and Alaska State Lead for the National Tribal Emergency Management Council.

**Robert DesRosier**

Robert DesRosier is employed at the Blackfeet Tribal Nation in Browning, Montana as the Director of Homeland Security and Disaster and Emergency Services, a position that he has held for the past 10 years. Robert has served the public with 15 years in Law Enforcement, 30 years as a fireman and 8 years as an EMT. Robert is the Chairman of the Montana Indian Nations Working Group, an organization of all seven Indian Nations emergency managers and Tribal Homeland Security personnel. He also serves on the executive board for FEMA region 8 RISC (Regional Interagency Steering Committee) and the Executive Board of the National Tribal Emergency Management Council.

**Howard Goldman**

Howard Goldman serves as Senior Counselor and Director of the Office of Policy Coordination and Intergovernmental Affairs. The office reports directly to the Administrator and was stood up in 2012 as part of TSA’s transformation as a high-performing counterterrorism organization. It provides overall coordination and alignment of TSA security policies with DHS, interagency committees, national security staff, and state, local, tribal, and territorial governments.

As a member of the Transportation Security Executive Service, Goldman provides advice on policy and legislative matters and represents TSA on a wide variety of significant issues. This includes serving as the TSA liaison to the national security staff, Transborder Directorate, providing timely information on significant policy initiatives to help inform the Assistant to the President for Counterterrorism and Homeland Security on critical transportation security matters and to DHS headquarters policy and counterterrorism offices.

Goldman leads the agency’s efforts on developing and tracking TSA’s high priority performance goals for aviation security that will be communicated to the public through the performance.gov website and is TSA’s lead for intergovernmental and tribal affairs.

Goldman served as TSA’s representative to the first DHS presidential transition team, and as Senior Transition Officer of TSA’s internal team to prepare a smooth transition for the incoming Administrator. He also served as TSA’s lead on the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review and was TSA’s Senior Representative in preparing the recommendations DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano presented to President Obama on New Year’s Eve following the attempted December 25, 2009, attack on Northwest Flight 253. Goldman also led TSA’s input and response to the Government Accountability Office’s comprehensive overview of homeland security ten years after the 9/11 attacks that had a significant focus on transportation security.

Goldman joined TSA in April 2002 as TSA’s first Legislative Counsel and has been intimately involved in managing TSA’s legislative program and working with Congress on transportation security provisions in legislation such as Vision 100 - A Century of Flight Authorization Act, The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, and the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, as well as provisions in annual appropriations bills. Goldman has drafted congressional testimony for numerous TSA, DHS, and Department of Transportation officials and assisted in preparing them for hearings.

Prior to joining TSA, Goldman was an attorney for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for nearly 25 years in offices in New York City, Virginia, and Washington, DC. During those assignments Goldman was involved in diverse areas of the Corps’ mission including military and civil works construction, military family housing, planning and authorization of flood control, navigation, and environmental restoration projects, real property management and engineering services on Army installations throughout the world, the Army’s Prime Power Program, research and development acquisitions for sophisticated topographical programs, and the beginning stages of execution of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program.

A native New Yorker, Goldman has a Bachelor of Arts in history from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and a law degree from New York University School of Law. He is a member of the New York Bar.

**Ken Choke**

Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, Ken Choke is an Enrolled Member of the Nisqually Tribe and has lived there some 20 plus years. Ken began his career in Emergency Management as a Law Enforcement Officer (Fish and Wildlife) and established the Department 2 plus years ago through the request of the Chief of Police, Tribal Council and General Council. The first major incident Ken was involved with was the Nisqually Earthquake while working for the Fish Hatchery. Since then Ken has dealt with several incidents to include a major wind storm that caused debris on the roadway and knocked out the power to the reservation. Ken was responsible for helping to develop a CERT team to assist in major events and with the wind storm, the CERT helped remove the debris so that Power could be restored to the Reservation and the surrounding areas. Ken helped develop the plans for the Youth/Emergency Center in the event of an Emergency as well the Tribes Emergency plans. The first activation of the Youth/Emergency Center was the MLK winter storm of 2012 which provided services for the Tribal Community and the surrounding areas as well assisted the American Red Cross with their requests for food for local shelters. With the help of the Emergency Management Team, Ken implemented the ICS structure to assist the Tribe with its first co-host of the Tribal Canoe Journey 2012 Paddle to Squaxin. Ken is currently the Tribe’s liaison for membership in the NWTEMC and the Washington State Lead for the National Tribal Emergency Management Council.

**Ralph Munro**

Was elected Washington's 13th Secretary of State in 1980 and served five terms. Secretary Munro was born in 1943 in Seattle, Washington, and spent his childhood on Bainbridge Island. He attended Western Washington University and received his B.A. in Education and Political Science. Governor Dan Evans appointed him in 1969 as the State's first volunteer coordinator. He currently resides on Triple Creek Farm in Thurston County and remains active in election reform and international trade issues.

**Richard Broncheau**

Mr. Broncheau moved home to the Nez Perce Reservation shortly after graduation from the University of Washington in June 1993.  Since November 1993  Mr. Broncheau has worked for the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) in a number of positions related to education, employment, training and emergency management.  His current position as Emergency Management Coordinator utilizes all of his education and employment skills including: 18 years in the Service Industry (i.e. restaurants); 8 years in Post-Secondary Education (i.e. college); 17 years work with the NPT.

Mr. Broncheau just finished purchasing radios and other equpment for the Tribal Police and Fire Management Programs (THSGP 2009).  He is currently preparing to roll out a Community Preparedness program for the Nez Perce Tribe (THSGP 2010).  And beginning October 1, 2012 he will also be coordinating the installation of three large generators to enhance the community preparedness and response capability in three towns on the Nez Perce Reservation (THSGP 2012).  All three programs are courtesy of the Department of Homeland Security, Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP).

**Patrick M. Brady, CIH, CSP**

Pat, started with Burlington Northern Railroad in 1991 as a Corporate Industrial Hygienist. He became the Assistant Director Hazardous Materials Safety in 1992. Upon Burlington Northern's merger with Santa Fe in January 1996, Pat became the Manager of Hazardous Materials Field Operation and Emergency Response and was promoted to the Asst. Director of Hazardous Materials in 2002. Additionally, Pat is a Certified Industrial Hygienist and a Certified Safety Professional.

**Tom Weiser**

Dr. Tom Weiser has been working as the Medical Epidemiologist for the Portland Area Indian Health Service since July, 2007 and is assigned to the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center where he works on disease surveillance, improving  immunization coverage and quality improvement in healthcare. He is a Family Physician and continues to practice part-time at the Western Oregon Service Unit in Salem. Prior to coming to the Portland Area, Dr. Weiser worked as a clinician for the Indian Health Service on the White Mountain Apache Reservation in Arizona from 1998-2005. From 2005-2007, he completed training in field epidemiology with the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service.

**Bruce Richter**

Bruce Richter joined OEC after 8 years of providing direct technology support to state, local and Tribal public safety agencies as deputy director of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center-Northwest, a program of the National Institute of Justice. Bruce retired as a division commander with the Anchorage, Alaska Police Department to help start up the Technology Center. At APD, he managed a regional 911 emergency communications center, and later supervised SWAT, EOD, and K-9 teams, as well as patrol and investigative specialty units. He began his career as a National Park Ranger on a remote Lake Superior island before moving on to seasonal backcountry assignments in Olympic and Denali National Parks, and gained experience in wildfire response and wilderness search and rescue. Bruce holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Alaska Pacific University, Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a Bachelor of Art in Justice from University of Alaska-Anchorage. Bruce also completed the Senior Management Institute for Police taught by the Harvard Kennedy School, the National Crime Prevention Institute at the University of Louisville, the Southern Police Institute and the US Army Northern Warfare School at Ft. Greely, Alaska.

**Walt Lamar**

Walter Lamar has thirty-years of specialized law enforcement and security experience having served as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Office of Law Enforcement Services, Senior Advisor to the Director of the Department of the Interior-Office of Law Enforcement and Security, and President/CEO of Lamar Associates.

Walter is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation of Montana and a descendant of the Wichita Tribe of Oklahoma, and was raised on the Blackfeet, Wind River, Jicarilla Apache and Navajo Reservations, in addition to Oklahoma Indian Country.

As a Special Weapons and Tactics Operator with the FBI in San Francisco and Oklahoma City Divisions, he responded to incidents which included the Los Angeles Rodney King Riots, the Branch Davidian standoff at Waco and the bombing of the A.P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City.

Walter founded and supervised the Oklahoma City Violent Crimes Task Force, was a member of the FBI Speakers Bureau, an FBI Special Agenda Recruiter, an FBI spokesperson and a member of the FBI Director’s Native American Board of Advisors. He appeared on the America’s Most Wanted and Usolved Mysteries television programs and is prominently featured in John Walsh’s book entitled, No Mercy.

Walter was twice awarded the FBI Shield of Bravery, and is one of only two agents in the history of the FBI to receive the prestigious medal. The first awarded medal was in recognition of “life-saving” deeds conducted immediately subsequent to the Oklahoma City Bombing and the second for an “extraordinary act of heroism” carried out in the course of a running gun battle with an armed felon.

Walter was recognized by the 1998 American Indian Exposition as “Indian of the Year.”

His parents are the late Newton Lamar (Wichita), a nationally recognized tribal leader, and Catherine Gobert Lamar (Blackfeet), a retired Bureau of Indian Affairs department head.

Walter is married to Dr. Cynthia Chavez Lamar (San Felipe Pueblo, Hopi, Navajo and Tewa), Director of the Indian Arts and Research Center at the School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, NM.

**Scott Carlson**

Serves as the Volunteer Systems Coordinator for the Washington State Department of Health’s Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) Unit. In this role, he is the program manager for the Washington State Emergency Registry of Volunteers called WAserv. This is part of the federal Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) program, which facilitates the effective utilization of volunteer resources at the local, state and federal levels. He also serves as the Washington State Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Coordinator and coordinates various volunteer activities including marketing, outreach, training, exercises and drills.

**Brad Halstead**

Brad Halstead has worked with the Washington State Department of Health for 22 years. Most of that time was spent working in the Contracts Office assisting state Department of Health staff initiate contracts with partners to fulfill program goals. These partners include local health, Washington tribes, private and non-profit entities among others. Part of this time was also spent assisting the newly formed Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) program establish contracts with preparedness partners throughout Washington State and the country. Since January 2008, Brad has worked in the PHEPR program as a finance analyst, where he assists state staff and preparedness partners with finance and contract issues.

**Robert Scheel**

Over twenty years with the Washington State Department of Health. Robert has worked with the Agency Emergency Preparedness section for the last nine years, implementing, managing and consulting on Preparedness systems planning and use. He is currently managing the configuration and deployment of the new WA SECURES application, which is the upgrade to our State’s Health Alert Network application.

**Gina Yarbrough**

Tribal Emergency Preparedness Coordinator in the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program in the Washington State Department of Health.

Coordinating and supporting emergency preparedness planning and readiness activities with 29 federally recognized tribes throughout the state is Gina’s role as the Tribal Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Department of Health (DOH).

A key function of her role at DOH is working with tribal health directors and emergency managers to develop the tribes’ response plans. She is charged with establishing and facilitating open communication, supporting the establishment of mutual aid agreements, interpreting grant funding requirements, and building long-term relationships between tribal governments, regional healthcare partners, and state agency representatives. She is conducting frequent site visits, reaching each of the 29 tribes, to enhance communication, to maintain strong, trusting relationships, and to offer assistance throughout the year.

Her background involves significant work building partnerships between tribal governments and regional healthcare partners and assists tribes in health emergency planning. She holds a strong understanding and appreciation of tribal culture and interests. Gina is in her eighth year with DOH’s emergency preparedness program.

**Lou Schmitz**

Lou Schmitz is the public health emergency preparedness projects coordinator for the American Indian Health Commission.  She has 21 years of experience in tribal public health emergency preparedness, health programs management and design, quality assurance, data management, and grant development. Ms. Schmitz has extensive experience in PHEPR plan development, PHEPR exercise design and coordination, and DOH contract management.

**David Dickinson**

David A. Dickinson, MA, has over 30 years experience in the field of behavioral health, working in clinical service delivery as a counselor, program manager, and agency director, as well as serving in leadership positions in state government in Kansas and Washington. His clinical career also included service delivery in California, Colorado, and Oregon. Prior to his position as Regional Administrator for Region X, David served as the Director of the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) in the Department of Social and Health Services, State of Washington, where he had been posted since April 2009. In this position he managed responsibility for the State's substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery services and community mental health system. During his tenure in Washington, he was responsible for integrating the former Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse and the Mental Health Division, creating the DBHR while melding two historically distinct Divisions with a shared vision of delivering quality, data-driven behavioral health services in a recovery-oriented system of care. He also had an active executive leadership role in promoting the concept of bilateral integration of behavioral health and primary healthcare in Washington State through person-centered health home clinical models.

As the Director of Addiction and Prevention Services in the Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services for the State of Kansas, a major accomplishment under David's leadership was the oversight of the RFP process and successful implementation of a state-wide contract for managing substance abuse treatment services with braided Medicaid and federal block grant funding in a Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP), utilizing a 1915b Medicaid waiver. David also oversaw the development of programming to address problem gambling as the State of Kansas entered the gaming market with legislatively approved State-owned casinos and the creation of the Problem Gambling and Addictions Grant Fund with 2% of all gaming revenues statutorily dedicated to the fund.

David has held positions as the First Vice President of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), as well as being an at-large member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD). David received a BA in Political Science from Baker University in Kansas, and earned his MA in Counseling Psychology from John F. Kennedy University in California. He resides in Olympia, Washington with his family.

**Ed Knight**

Ed Knight, AICP, is the Senior Planner for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in LaConner, WA. Ed holds a degree in Social Assessment & Policy from Western Washington University, and has over 30 years in the public sector, including 15 years with Native American tribes. In his work for the Swinomish Tribe, Ed oversees long-range planning, transportation planning, building permitting, and forest management, and he was the project manager for the Swinomish Climate Change Initiative, a landmark 2-year project to study local climate change impacts and adaptation strategies.

**Rick Buell**

Rick Buell is a U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Regional Emergency Coordinator with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. As a Region 10 emergency coordinator, he works primarily with Alaska, Oregon, Idaho and Washington health departments, tribal governments, and healthcare systems to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies and disasters. He’s been deployed to the 2008 California wildfires, the Midwest and North Dakota floods, the American Samoa tsunami, National Special Security Events, and hurricanes Dean, Gustav, and Ike.

Previously, he was a public health preparedness deputy director for the Washington State Department of Health's Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program; he also is a former Idaho paramedic and firefighter with the Colfax and Pullman Fire Departments in Washington State.

**Don Miller**

Don Miller served as the Telecommunications and Warnings Systems Manager for Washington State Emergency Management for over 20 years. He has over 35 years of experience in Telecommunications Engineering, Computer Programming, Networking, Warnings Systems and Information Systems Management. the Emergency Alert System, Microwave networks, Multiple Radio systems, Wide Area and Local Area Computer and Telephony networks, Tsunami Siren Warning systems and Satellite networks. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Partnership for Public Warning. His is now the Senior Vice President for Business Development for MystateUSA.

**Victoria Warren-Mears**

Victoria Warren-Mears, PhD, RD has served as the Director of The EpiCenter at the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board for over 5 years. As Director, she has the specific responsibility of managing The EpiCenter and developing processes to measure the progress of northwest Indian health programs toward meeting the health status objectives of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. Victoria holds a PhD from the University of Washington in Nutrition Sciences. She completed post-doctoral training in Human Investigations at Oregon Health & Science University. She is an investigator with experience in conducting population based research and programmatic implementation. Dr. Warren-Mears has experience collaborating with the northwest tribal communities and personal contacts within tribal organizations, IHS and other federal agencies. In addition, Dr. Warren-Mears has extensive experience with management of volunteers in complex systems. She has extensive experience in local public health systems and service delivery in the northwest.

Outside of work, Victoria is an avid sports fan. She particularly enjoys her son’s basketball and baseball games, and taking walks with her husband and the family dog, Pearl. She also enjoys crafts of all kinds.

**Sharon Loper**

Sharon Loper is the Acting Regional Administrator for the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X. In this role, she is responsible for FEMA operational decisions and policy implementation within the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. These efforts include implementing and executing FEMA's preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery programs—in close coordination with partners from all levels of government, volunteer and faith-based groups, and business communities.

Ms Loper was selected as the Deputy Regional Administrator in December 2011. From 2007 to 2011, she worked in the Office of the Regional Administrator as the Senior Policy Advisor, with periodic assignments as Acting Deputy Regional Administrator and Regional Response Coordination Center’s Regional Support Team Leader. Previously, she worked in the Region’s Mitigation Division where she implemented the hazard mitigation planning requirements under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, launched the Pre-disaster Mitigation Grant Program, served as Hazard Mitigation Cadre Manager and, as assigned, served as Mitigation Branch Chief and Hazard Mitigation Officer for federally declared major disasters. Prior to FEMA Region X, she worked for FEMA’s Mitigation Directorate in Washington, D.C. on floodplain management policy issues and hazard mitigation benefit-cost analysis. She also was a contributor to FEMA’s pre-disaster mitigation initiative, Project Impact, which emphasized a collaborative approach to reducing disaster damages before a disaster. Her career with FEMA began in 1988.

Ms Loper received a Bachelor of Arts in History and Master of Public Administration from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Following graduate school, she completed a two-year Presidential Management Fellowship in Washington, D.C. She has also attended professional development courses at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and the Naval Postgraduate School’s Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

**Nir Barnea**

Nir Barnea joined NOAA in 1992, and has served as the NOAA Marine Debris Program West Coast Coordinator since 2005. In that role he facilitates and supports the activities of NOAA-funded marine debris projects in the region and  works with local, state, tribal and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations on a variety of projects to identify, assess, and remove marine debris. Nir has been involved with the effort to address the Japan tsunami marine debris since March 2011.

**Mary C. Selecky**

Mary C. Selecky has served as Secretary of the Washington State Department of Health since March 1999, serving under Governor Chris Gregoire and former Governor Gary Locke. Prior to working for the state, Mary had 20-year tenure as administrator of the Northeast Tri-County Health District in Colville, Washington. Coming from one of Washington’s most rural areas, Mary is keenly aware of the unique challenges facing rural communities. In 1989, Mary helped create the state’s Department of Health, which she now leads. She was also instrumental in developing Washington’s nationally recognized *Public Health Improvement Partnership.*

Throughout her career, Mary has been a leader in developing local, state, and national public health policies. Mary has served for two terms as the president of the *Association of State and Territorial Health Officials,* receiving the 2010 American Medical Association’s Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service;and is a past president of the *Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials.* Mary served on the Board of Directors of the *National Association of City and County Health Official.*

On a statewide level, Mary has made tobacco prevention and control, patient safety, and emergency preparedness her top priorities. Mary is known for bringing people and organizations together to improve the public health system and the health of people in Washington. Mary graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in political science and history, and has been a resident of Washington for 36 years.

**Jim Mullen**

Jim Mullen became the Washington state director of the Emergency Management Division effective July 21, 2004. He has been an outspoken advocate of local and county emergency managers. Innovation has characterized his tenure at Washington EMD: he has dramatically increased the public education outreach effort, which includes the highly praised Map Your Neighborhood Program initiative. A second innovation has been to increase the direct, two-way interaction between the public and private sector, with the promise of more in the future.  
  
Mr. Mullen served as director of emergency management for the city of Seattle for 12 years. Seattle Emergency Management received a number of national awards and other recognition during that period for community mitigation, community preparedness and disaster response planning. During his tenure he established a professional staff that was considered one of the most talented in the nation in terms of innovation and performance in nine presidentially declared disasters. The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) recognized Mr. Mullen for his “outstanding contribution to Emergency Management” and as an “outstanding representative of our discipline”.

In October 2010 Mr. Mullen was elected vice president of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), and assumed the office of president of NEMA January 14, 2011.

Throughout his career in emergency management, Jim has contributed constructive commentary on the impact of the Homeland Security Department upon FEMA, and the collateral impact upon the safety of the nation from all hazards. In addition to his service as NEMA vice president, he has represented the association as Region 10 vice president and as Mitigation Committee chairman. He is a member of the National Homeland Security Consortium and a driving force behind the formation of the National Collaborative Mitigation Alliance.

**Natalie Grant**

Natalie Grant is a Program Analyst in the Recovery Coordination Office at the US Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to starting at HHS this January, Natalie served as Director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness at Boston Emergency Medical Services (BEMS)/Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). In this capacity she was chief emergency planner for public health and medical matters, oversaw all programmatic activities associated with implementation of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Grant (PHEP) and functioned as the public health and medical lead for the City of Boston during response operations. Emergency responses included developing, coordinating and implementing operations for the Boston's response to H1N1, the 2010 Massachusetts Water Emergency, Hurricane Irene and numerous snowstorms.

Originally from Homestead, Florida, Natalie has previously served as Health and Medical Emergency Management Coordinator for Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management. In this capacity she responded to wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes and civil disturbances.

Natalie received her MPH in International Health from Boston University and her AB from Harvard College.

**John Scott**

John Scott founded and directs the Center for Public Service Communications whose mission is to provide guidance and expertise to individuals, communities, and public sector organizations in the specialized field of applying telecommunications and information technologies to reduce health disparities, to improve health services to underserved and disenfranchised individuals and communities, and to improve the collection and sharing of scientific, technical, and community knowledge to reduce human vulnerability to natural hazards. Scott's international work experience includes the Americas, Africa, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, China, Western Europe, the Pacific, and the former Soviet Union.

Currently, Scott is writing a disaster risk reduction handbook for mayors on behalf of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and its "Making Cities Resilient" campaign. He is executive director of the Refugee Health Information Network (RHIN) and is a member of the National Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency for Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Response (of the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health). He has been a senior advisor on early warning and disaster health information to institutions including the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), and the National Library of Medicine (NLM). From 2001-2005, Scott was executive director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President's Task Force on Health Information and Technology. He was also founder, in 1993, of the US Congressional Steering Committee on Telehealth and Health Information Technology and coordinated that group for ten years.

Scott has worked for many years on disaster risk reduction programs internationally, with the UN, and the United States. On behalf of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs, he wrote the concept paper and was first project manager for ReliefWeb, which has become a principal site for sharing of disaster-related information. He was principal investigator of the needs assessment for a South-East Asia Disaster Health Information Network after the 2004 tsunami, on behalf of the WHO South East Asia Regional Office and was one of the principal developers of the Central American Network for Disaster Health Information (CANDHI). He organized and chaired the First International Conference on Disaster Communications, in 1989, on behalf of the UN Disaster Relief Organization and was a founding member of the UN's Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications. He coordinated development efforts for an initiative to provide health information and knowledge management support to the government of Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake, on behalf of the collaborative effort of the PAHO and NLM. Scott is currently working to establish an Indigenous Advisory Group on Disaster Risk Reduction with support from the PAHO, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

**Robert I. Holden (Choctaw and Chickasaw)**

Robert Holden is of Choctaw and Chickasaw descent and is Deputy Director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the oldest and largest national tribal government advocacy organization in the country, located in Washington, D.C.  Mr. Holden manages the NCAI/Environmental Protection Agency Exchange Network cooperative agreement to increase and enhance tribal capacity and participation in the Exchange Network through grants to tribes to develop their capacity for environmental quality data collection and sharing.

Mr. Holden’s previous work includes monitoring federal program activities to ensure cultural resource protection compliance and trust responsibility requirements to tribal governments, lands and peoples are met.  He continues to monitor tribal participation in homeland security and emergency management matters to ensure tribal inclusion in federal funding, programmatic and national strategy development.  Mr. Holden has experience in federal evaluation of radiological emergency preparedness exercises, and assisted in developing tribal emergency management planning courses at the National Emergency Training Center’s Emergency Management Institute, and serves as an adjunct instructor for the courses. Mr. Holden coordinated tribal workgroups in developing the U.S. Department of Defense American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, and revising the U.S. Department of Energy American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Government Policy.

**Florence Levy**

Miskitu indian (by mother) and Afro-descendant (by father) Medical doctor, with a Master degree in Public Health for Developing Countries (LSHTM), with 20 years working experience with: Ministry of Health (local, national level), international agencies (World Bank, European Commission-Ministry of Health) and international NGOs (Health Poverty Action), within the health sector, holding managerial positions, with a strong personal interest in development of intercultural health systems, woman and youth sexual and reproductive health, especially of those that are being deliberately marginalize or ignore, because of their ethnic group, culture, geographical location, socio economic condition, gender or country public policies. Member of the Peoples Health Movement, Lecturer at URACCAN University and the Universidad Intercultural- Fondo Indígena, Regional Advisor, Cultural Diversity and Gender, PAHO-WHO since November 2011.

**LT Jesus Reyna BSN, RN**

LT Reyna is a Commissioned Officer with the Public Health Service and is the Regional Minority Health Consultant for Region X (AK, ID, OR and WA). His work focuses on HHS Secretarial and OASH/ASH prevention initiatives and priorities, including Healthy People 2020; the HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities; and the National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity.

LT Reyna has been at the HHS Region X office for 9 years and has held two other positions prior to this assignment. He coordinated the Medical Reserve Corps program and was the HIV/AIDS Regional Resource Coordinator.

**Carey Palm**

Carey Palm is the Tribal Liaison and Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program under the Oregon Health Authority (Public Health Division). She provides technical assistance and leadership in emergency planning, exercise, response and communications. She facilitates the integration and coordination of tribal, state and local emergency response plans, including the receipt and distribution of state assets such as Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), vaccine and antivirals.

Carey has a Bachelor of Science in Analytical Cartography from the Ohio State University. She has worked for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program since 2006. Prior to Preparedness, Carey spent three years on the southern Oregon Coast as the GIS Analyst for the Coquille Indian Tribe.

**John Erickson**

John Erickson is a Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Washington State Department of Health and director of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response program. In this role he coordinates the overall agency work on emergency preparedness and response. He also administers the cooperative CDC and ASPR agreements. As such he is involved in all aspects of natural, biological, chemical and radiological emergency planning with Washington State’s hospitals, local public health agencies, tribal and other federal, state and local partners.

Prior to this he was the director of the Department’s Division of Radiation Protection. John joined the Washington program in 1982 as an environmental health physicist. He moved up through the ranks within the Division becoming the director in 1996. John received his training at the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Washington. He holds an MS degree in nuclear chemistry.

**Linda Crerar**

The Center of Excellence is pleased announce the appointment of Linda Crerar as its new Director. Linda is an experienced business and government executive with over 35 years working successfully in the private and public sectors. She has a proven track record of promoting organizational and community preparedness. Linda has served on the State’s Homeland Security Committee and its Strategic Plan Development Working Group, State’s Pandemic Flu Workgroup and as the executive staff to Washington’ Emergency Management Council prior to coming to the Center in 2010. Linda is a dedicated professional helping to build our State’s economic vitality through delivery of effective training, education and resources which support our community and technical colleges, their constituencies and our government, business and industry partners.

**Douglas Weber**

Douglas T. Weber is Chief of Emergency Management Branch, Seattle District Corps of Engineers. Doug is a registered Professional Engineer and has worked for Seattle District Emergency Management for 24 years. He has managed the Corps of Engineer’s levee inspection and rehabilitation program as well as the flood preparedness and response programs.

**Elise Krohn, M.Ed, Traditional Foods Educator and Herbalist**

Elise Krohn is passionate about cultivating healing relationships between people and plants. Since 2005 she has taught classes and developed curriculum for the Northwest Indian College’s Traditional Plants and Foods Program. She also coordinates the Native Foods Nutrition Project at the Northwest Indian Treatment Center. Elise has a Master of Education from Leslie University, a Bachelor of Science from The Evergreen State College, and a Certificate in Ethnobotany from the Center for World Indigenous Studies. She is the author of Wild Rose and Western Red Cedar and the co-author of Feeding the People, Feeding the Spirit: Revitalizing Northwest Coastal Indian Food Culture.

**Betsy Buckingham**

Elizabeth Buckingham, Health Director, for the Makah Tribe has served in Health Administration since 1999 when she served as the Emergency Medical Services Coordinator for the Makah Tribe. Then Elizabeth developed inter-agency relationships with area hospitals, EMS programs, WA State Department of Health through the development of initial hospital bioterrorism planning post-9/11. Elizabeth was recruited in 2003 to serve as the Business Manager at the Makah Tribe’s Sophie Trettevick Indian Health Center where she served as the emergency planner for the STIHC. Ms. Buckingham served on the Makah Tribe Committee that drafted the Makah Tribe Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in 2005. She served as the Homeland Security Representative for the Makah Tribe. Ms. Buckingham assumed the leadership role for the STIHC in 2007 as the Health Director and continues to serve at the present time. Ms. Buckingham joined the WA State Department of Health Olympic Regional Tribal-Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement workgroup with the seven area tribes and three local health jurisdictions. Ms. Buckingham serves as the Alternate Delegate representing the Makah Tribe on the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and the American Indian Health Commission. She also serves as in the Northwest Pacific Cross Border Alliance as the co-chair of the Indigenous Health Work Group.

**Maria Gardipee**

Maria C. Gardipee serves as the Tribal Liaison for the Washington State Department of Health. During her 26 years with the DOH Maria has worked as; Director of the Agricultural Employee Program, Director of the Office of Health Systems Development, Administrator in the Health Systems Quality Assurance Unit; Program Manager in the Health Professions Licensing Section;

Prior to her service with state government, Maria worked in Migrant and Community Health Centers in Idaho, Oregon, Texas and Washington. During her 15 years with health centers, she served as; the Director of several Health Centers, Health Clinic Manager, Medical Records Administrator and Community Health Advocate.

Maria has been recognized for her work as a principal founder of the Northwest Regional Primary Care Association. She was the Regional Association’s Board President and served as Board Member of the Washington State Primary Care Association.

Maria was the first Hispanic woman elected President of the National Association of Community Health Centers. She was appointed member of the National Advisory Council on National Health Service Corps by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

During her career, Maria has also been recognized for her work to address issues affecting farm workers, minority and low-income populations that include:

Governor Gary Locke - for efforts to improve the lives of Farm Workers and their families by addressing Farm worker housing health and safety issues.

Dr. Sherman L. Cox, Assistant Secretary for Health Systems Quality Assurance Division - Outstanding Leadership Award - for providing vision and excellence as Director of the Office of Health Services Development

Washington Human Development Corporation - Golden Aztec Award - for “causing major changes in management’s attitudes to materially benefit women, Spanish-speaking and other minority groups in employment, development and use of skills”

The United States Public Health Service Director’s Award - for dedicated service as a member of the National Health Service Corps.

**Gerald Jaskulski**

I began my first responder public safety career in 1972 as a volunteer firefighter during my high school days in Northern Virginia.  In 1975 after high school graduation I was selected by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, Virginia to attend their career firefighter recruit class.  During my 28 year career until my retirement I obtained the rank of Captain and was certified in all aspects of suppression, EMS, Hazardous Material, Technical Rescue, emergency communications and Emergency Management skill sets.    I then spent the next four years as the Assistant Coordinator of Emergency Management for Fairfax County Government managing all aspects of a very robust all hazard locality level EM program.  I left Fairfax County in early 2006 after being offered a competitive position as the Assistant Fire Chief for Stafford County Virginia until May 2010 at which time I was hired by FEMA.  During the last 36 years in public safety I have learned from the ground up the importance of developing emergency plans, exercise and training processes, equipment needs, staffing requirements, EOC procedures, EOP development and leveraging the many different levels of funding sources to achieve identified goals and objectives to better public safety delivery for our first responders.

**Matthew P. Bernard**

Matthew has 34 years in emergency and HAZMAT response, training, safety and planning. FEMA Region 10 NIMS Coordinator, USCG Type 1 ICS Safety Officer (SOFR), Certified trainer in NIMS, WMD, OSHA, EPA and DOT courses and Type III Planning Section Chief. Eight years as USCG Regional Response Team Coordinator Region X, 27 years with the USCG 14reserve/13active. PSC Region 10, SOFR USCG Response Hurricane Katrina/Rita in Louisiana, ESF1 Hurricane Charlie, Frances, Ivan and Nisqually earthquake, Deputy Planning Section Chief during 9/11 incident Sector Puget Sound, NW Area Spill Planner, CANUSPAC Joint Response Team Coordinator, Responded to the Ixtoc Oil Spill, Arco Anchorage Oil Spill, Port Angeles, WA. Incident Commander at ICP Homer, Alaska during Exxon Valdez oil spill. Member of USCG Pacific Type 1 IMAT (2001-2008). SOFR, PSC and Coach in multiple exercises. Safety Professional, Industrial Hygienist, Registered Environmental Manager, BA in Marine Biology, and Masters Work in Environmental Management.