

# WHAT WORKS

## Speaker Biographies



### Chair Deborah Kafoury

Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury has long propelled innovative solutions to the region's most pressing issues of homelessness, economic disparities and gaps in the behavioral health and public safety systems.

She co-founded the Joint Office for Homeless Services with the City of Portland, the region's first community-wide strategy for preventing and ending homelessness, which served more than 35,000 people last year. In overseeing nearly \$1 billion worth of new construction in Portland, including a new Central Courthouse, she prioritized apprenticeship programs and contracting requirements opening the door for more women, people of color, and veterans to pursue construction careers. She is currently leading the creation of the first behavioral health resource center for people in crisis on the street in downtown Portland.

The chair also serves as co-chair of Multnomah County's Local Public Safety Coordinating Council, a state-statute established body that coordinates local criminal justice policy. Through this collaborative work the chair— alongside local public safety partners — has worked to launch programs and forge policies designed to create a more equitable criminal justice system.

Deborah began her public service in the Oregon House of Representatives, and served two years as the House Minority Leader. In 2008, she was elected to the Multnomah County Commission. She was elected Multnomah County Chair in 2014 and re-elected in May 2018 for a second-term. Deborah lives in southeast Portland with her husband, Nik Blosser, and their younger children, Jacob and Anna. Her oldest child, Alexander, is away at college.



### Abbey Stamp, LCSW

Abbey is the Executive Director of the Multnomah County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council and is responsible for directing and coordinating inter-agency public safety policy discussions and intergovernmental projects to improve efficacy of the county's public safety system.

Abbey's professional experience includes working with elected officials, juvenile justice, child welfare, law enforcement, and adult criminal justice leadership to coordinate and implement system reform, policy change, and trauma-informed approaches. Abbey is a trained mental health clinician and has direct experience providing family and individual therapies to high-risk children, youth, adults, and families.

Abbey has a Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies and Spanish from Mills College in Oakland, California and a Master of Social Work Administration from Portland State University. Abbey has worked in social services and public safety for more than two decades. Her professional values are grounded on social justice, family resilience, and community safety. She speaks Spanish and has focused her career on improving justice outcomes communities of color.



## Kimberely Dixon, M.S. MOL

Kimberely Dixon has spent over 25 years in the Portland/Vancouver area with a flourishing family of 10 children and 14 grandchildren. She acquired her post-secondary education in Business Management; Management and Organizational Leadership; and Adult Post-Secondary Education while raising her family. Her areas of expertise are in advocacy, training/facilitation, organizational leadership and behavior and change. She currently serves as a Portland Police Bureau Crisis Response Team volunteer, the co-chair of 3 to PhD (a unique educational model collaborative effort among Concordia University, Portland Public Schools, Faubion

School, Trillium Family Services, Basics Foods, and Kaiser Permanente to create a safer, healthier and more educated community). Dixon also sits on the board for Trillium Family Services. Kimberely is an adjunct professor at Portland Community College in the Management and Supervisory Development department and offers consulting and coaching in the area of transition and transformation.



## Bruce Western, Ph.D

Bruce Western is the Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice and Co-Director of the Justice Lab at Columbia University. His research has examined the causes, scope, and consequences of the historic growth in U.S. prison populations, labor markets and income inequality. Current projects include a randomized experiment assessing the effects of criminal justice fines and fees on misdemeanor defendants in Oklahoma City, an interview study with men and women subject to pretrial detention in New York City, and a field study of solitary confinement in Pennsylvania state prisons. Western is also the Principal Investigator of the Square

One Project that engages policymakers and community leaders to re-imagine the public policy response to violence under conditions of poverty and racial inequality. He was the Vice Chair of the National Academy of Sciences panel on the causes and consequences of high incarceration rates in the United States. He is the author of *Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2018) and *Punishment and Inequality in America* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2006), winner of the American Society of Criminology's Michael Hindelang Award for the best publication in criminology. Western is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow, a Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar, and a fellow of the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study. Western received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and was born in Canberra, Australia.



## Mai Fernandez, MPA

Mai Fernandez is executive director of the National Center for Victims of Crime, a position she has held since June 2010. With a distinguished 25-year career in the criminal justice, nonprofit, and policy arenas, Fernandez brings to the National Center extensive national, state, and local leadership experience in victim-related work. Formerly the acting executive director of the Latin American Youth Center – a DC-based nonprofit organization that provides multicultural underserved youth with education, social, and job training services – Fernandez has spent the last 13 years managing programs that serve victims of child abuse, sex trafficking, and

gang violence.

Before joining the Latin American Youth Center, Fernandez served as Assistant District Attorney for New York County, helping victims navigate the criminal justice system and pleading their cases before the court. She also developed policy for victims of domestic and youth violence at the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and served as a Congressional aide to U.S. Representatives Mickey Leland and Jim Florio.

Mai Fernandez received her undergraduate degree from Dickinson College, Juris Doctor from American University, and Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University's JFK School of Government. Mai [pronounced "MY"] resides with her husband and son in Washington, DC.



## Travis Parker, M.S., L.I.M.H.P., C.P.C.

Mr. Parker is a Program Area Director with Policy Research, Inc. providing training and technical assistance services that draw on his extensive experience as a provider of behavioral health services in correctional facilities, and on his administrative expertise in behavioral health and managed care organizations. He previously served as the Vice President of System Transformation/Tribal Liaison and Director of Clinical Services for Magellan Behavioral Health of Nebraska. Prior to his appointment at Magellan, he was the Deputy Director of the Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County (CMHCLC), Nebraska, having also served as

the Program Director for the Behavioral Health Jail Diversion Program and the Emergency Services, Homeless, and Special Needs Departments at the CMHCLC.

Mr. Parker has completed mental health and suicide prevention training with almost 40 sheriffs and municipal police departments in 16 Nebraska counties in the southeastern part of the state, as he also serves as a Crisis Response Counselor offering Intercept 0 and 1 diversion opportunities to those counties/communities. Mr. Parker has co-authored three articles published in American Jails, one article in Behavioral Sciences and the Law, and one article in The Prison Journal. He has assisted the communities of Omaha, Nebraska, Kearney, Nebraska and Ames, Iowa, in launching post-booking jail diversion programs and is currently working with Minnehaha County, South Dakota to implement their Intercept 0/1 Community Triage Center. He completed his M.S. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Kansas and is licensed as an Independent Mental Health Practitioner and Certified Professional Counselor in Nebraska.



## Sonya Shah, MFA

Sonya Shah initiated The Ahimsa Collective ([www.ahimsacollective.net](http://www.ahimsacollective.net)) in 2016. She has 20 years of experience in social justice education and 12 years of experience in restorative practices. She has trained hundreds of facilitators in trauma healing and restorative justice practices across the U.S. She's worked closely with survivors of violent crimes, people who have done harm, families impacted by violence and law enforcement. She is a survivor of sexual abuse, a Buddhist, and a first-generation immigrant from the Northwestern part of India. She speaks at national conferences, colleges and has appeared several times in the media. She has two amazing children who remind her what it means to be in love all of the time. She has a BA from Brown University, and MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago and has received Jacob Javitz and Fulbright Fellowships in her career.