

## Appendix 3. Presenter Biographies

**Harry R. Barnes** (Blackfeet), “Iss tsee tsee mahn” “One who carries the flame,” Chairman of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, was born on September 29, 1949 in Spokane, Washington. Harry was raised on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and attended Cut Bank Boarding School, Browning Public Schools and graduated from Cut Bank High School. Harry spent one year in college before being drafted into the U.S. Army where he served for three years before being Honorably Discharged. Harry married Jana in 1970 and from this union they were blessed with four sons, two of whom serve in the military. Harry & Jana returned to Browning in 1995 where he started Barnes Construction, an electrical company and later opened Blackfeet Construction Supply which remained open until 2014. Harry has served on several boards and committees which include the DeLaSalle Blackfeet School Board (Chair), Holy Family Mission Board, Little Flower Men’s Group, and the 3 Rivers Communications Board. In June 2014, Harry successfully ran for the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council and was elected. At the Inauguration ceremony on July 10, 2014, Harry was elected Chairman of the Council by his fellow Council Members.

**Dyani Bingham** (Assiniboine/Blackfeet/Metis) has worked at the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council (now Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council) since 2008. Currently, she works as Project Director for the TRAC Peer to Peer Recovery Support Project. Ms. Bingham has a background in public health, tourism, native art marketing and development, media relations, historic preservation, tribal policy, peer to peer recovery support, obesity prevention, physical activity promotion, breast and cervical health, and commercial tobacco use prevention. Ms. Bingham worked as the Native Arts Specialist for the MT Arts Council in the mid-2000s, where she specialized in Native Art Market development and education. She also served as the Director of the Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance for five years, where she developed inter-tribal representation in the cultural tourism and during the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. She also worked as a Montana Artrepreneurship Program coach for the Big Timber cohort. Ms. Bingham is a proud mother, auntie and daughter who enjoys spending time with family and friends. She is very interested in policy reforms that advance wellness for Native people and communities.

**Ernest “Joe” Gray MD** (Blackfeet) graduated from Cornell University, the University of Nevada – Reno Medical School, and the Ventura County Family Practice Residency. Dr. Gray has been the Clinical Director at the Blackfeet Community Hospital since 2008.

**Dee Hutchison** (Navajo) is a Chief Executive Officer at Blackfeet Community Hospital, Browning Montana, with responsibility for operating the Blackfeet Service Unit – Indian Health Services healthcare delivery system. The Blackfeet Community Hospital is a 28-bed comprehensive healthcare facility with a large ambulatory clinic, emergency department, and public and community health programs, serving the Blackfeet Tribe. Ms. Hutchison started her career as a registered nurse and moved into healthcare administration. She has served in number of leadership positions with the IHS and tribal organizations. With her extensive experience in healthcare administration and direct clinical care with the IHS as well as with the private sector and self-governance tribes, Ms. Hutchison brings a deep commitment to

quality care, relationship based care and excellence in healthcare administration. Ms. Hutchison has a master's degree in healthcare administration from the Independence University, Salt Lake City, Utah and a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Colorado in Denver, Colorado. Throughout her career, Ms. Hutchison has received recognition and numerous awards for her excellent leadership and contributions to healthcare improvements. Most recently, she received the 2014 Chief Executive Officer of the Year Award from the IHS Direct Service Tribes Advisory Committee for her work with five tribes of Arizona, Nevada and California and the Sherman Indian School IHS Clinic in California that are served by the IHS's Colorado River Service Unit. Ms. Hutchison is a member of the Navajo Tribe and was raised on the Navajo Indian Reservation and is fluent in the Diné language of her people.

**Mark Kaneta MD** is a neonatologist and the current Medical Director of the NICU at Kalispell Regional Healthcare. Dr. Kaneta is a third generation Hawaiian, completed his pediatric and neonatal training in Indiana, and has lived in Missoula and Kalispell for 16 years. Dr. Kaneta has three daughters.

**Adam Kartman, MD** is the medical director at Lummi Healing Spirit OTP, a tribally owned and operated clinic. A Family and Addiction medicine doctor treating patients of all ages, some of whom he delivered 20-25 years ago when he was with the Indian Health Service doing obstetrics care. Recently he was the co-recipient of an award from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy for a Naloxone prevention project training over 350 law enforcement officers, with 38 recorded OD saves in the past 13 months.

Lt. Commander **Jenna Meyer** is a Public Health Advisor with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support. LCDR Meyer is a Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service. She received her MPH in Maternal Child Health from the University of Minnesota, is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant and is certified in Maternal and Newborn Nursing. LCDR Meyer spent eight years working for the Indian Health Service. During that time, she worked on the Navajo, Cherokee and Hopi Indian Reservations as an Obstetrical nurse, Lead Coordinator for the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and as the Director of Quality Management at the Hopi Health Care Center. She began working for the CDC and was assigned to Shaping Our Appalachian Region as a Public Health Advisor in July 2015. In her numerous roles, LCDR Meyer has worked closely with Federal, Tribal and Community partners to advance public health and wellbeing through collaboration, communication and focus on preventative practices.

**William "Bill" Old Chief** (Blackfeet) is now serving his second term as a member of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council. Bill is a U.S. Army veteran who worked 17 years for the National Park Service (Glacier) Department of Interior, three of those years as Native American Coordinator. After earning an Associate Arts degree from Blackfeet Community College in Native American Studies, Bill continued his education at the University of Montana toward a BS

in Business Management. As a current member of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, Bill has been selected by the council to represent the Blackfeet Nation on numerous committees such as the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council, National Congress of American Indians, Blackfeet Oil & Gas Committee, Economic Development Committee, State Tribal Economic Development Commission, and Chairman for the Health, Education, & Social Services Committee (HESS). His vision is to build bridges between state, federal, and tribal officials that focus on success.

**Tara Peterson RN** (Blackfeet) has a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree from Montana State University-Bozeman. Tara is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet tribe and grew up on the reservation, graduating from Browning High School in 2006. She has worked as a nurse at the Blackfeet Service Unit since 2011 and as a student-extern at the IHS facility since summer 2008. For the past 2.5 years Tara has worked as a Public Health Nurse where she has become more closely involved with the processes of perinatal care. In 2014, Tara assisted with the formation of the Well Mothers & Babies (WMB) Coalition of which she is now the coordinator. This coalition combines the efforts of the Blackfeet Community Hospital and the Tribal Health community to combat intra-uterine drug exposure, and has become a dynamic piece in addressing the significance of drug use in pregnancy on the reservation. As this work has become her passion, Tara plans to strengthen her efforts in this specific area while continuing to help better her community through higher education at The University of Montana-Missoula where she will begin working towards her Master's in Public Health this upcoming fall.

**Kelley Saia, MD** graduated from the University of Vermont College of Medicine in 2001 and completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Boston Medical Center in 2005. Currently, Dr. Saia is an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Boston University School of Medicine and director of Project RESPECT, Substance Use Disorder in Pregnancy Treatment Clinic at Boston Medical Center. Dr. Saia is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the American Board of Addiction Medicine. Established in 2006, Project RESPECT is a unique, multidisciplinary program designed to stabilize and treat pregnant women with substance use disorders. Project RESPECT is a regional and national leader in clinical care for this vulnerable and growing population combining high risk obstetrical care, psychiatric care, relapse prevention, social services, and peer support.

**Mary Ellen LaFromboise** is the Director for the Blackfeet Tribe Child and Family Service in Browning. She attained her BSW in Social Welfare from the University of Montana. She has 40 years of experience in mental health counseling, chemical dependency treatment, community social services, and health administration.

**Shanley Nicolai** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker as well as a Licensed Addictions Counselor. She is the lead clinician for the Wrapped in Hope project, which is aimed at reducing the number of infants in Lake County born drug affected. She has experience working with both adult and adolescent populations, especially in the co-occurring capacity (those suffering from both addictions and mental health disorders). She also has experience working within residential programs for women in early recovery with young children in their care. She

understands how important sobriety and recovery can be for prenatal and neonatal health and is excited to be able to provide therapeutic, client-centered services to these vulnerable and important members of our community.

**George “Eagle Fly” Kipp** is a Blackfeet Cultural Traditionalist who was employed with Blackfeet Community College for 30 years. He currently serves as a State Legislative Representative for House District 15 in Montana.

**Melinda Kipp** is also a Blackfeet Cultural Traditionalist. She previously worked for IHS and for the past sixteen years has been employed with Blackfeet Tribal Employment Rights Office in Browning as an Equal Employment Officer.

Together, **George and Melinda** have carried the Thunder Pipe for 33 years and have carried the Beaver Pipe for 23 years. In their role as Blackfeet Cultural Traditionalists, they offer to share traditional practices, taboos, roles and responsibilities of family members and to teach community members how to live in a good way that fosters healthy families.