

Jesse Benet, MA, LMHC (Washington state) & LPC (Oregon)

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- Strong social justice leader grounded in leading with a racial equity lens; intersectional analyses
- Effective local government and non-profit leader, versed in both/and system reform efforts connected to community and in community
- Deep systemic analyses of criminal legal system, behavioral health and homelessness from practice and policy lenses; expert in holistic service system coordination at local, county and state levels
- Systems level boundary spanning to coordinate governmental, contracted treatment provider and other community-based agencies for the 13th largest county in the US, with 39 municipal jurisdictions
- Systems change strategist related to harm reduction, trauma responsive, racially just, and person-centered practices across the continuum of social services, with a focus on moving supports upstream and continuous quality improvement efforts

EDUCATION & LICENSURES

Humboldt State University May 2003
M.A. in Counseling Psychology (3.92 GPA)

University of Nevada Reno May 1998
B.A. in Psychology with a Minor in Philosophy
Academic Honors: Dean's List Spring 1997, Dean's List Spring 1998.

Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) in the State of Washington (LH00010625) since 2006

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the State of Oregon (C6710) effective March 2022

WORK EXPERIENCE

Oregon Health Authority August 2023 – April 2023
Office of Behavioral Health (Health Systems Division)
Remote/Salem, Oregon

Adult Behavioral Health Director

Executive leadership position overseeing five large several strategic program areas in the administration of behavioral health services for the State of Oregon.

- Adult Intensive Services teams including OHA's oversight of forensic programming including Aid & Assist and Guilty Except for Insanity under PSRB
- Adult Mental Health which includes of evidence-based practices (e.g., ACT, Supported Employment)
- Adult Addiction Treatment, Recovery and Prevention Services
- Oregon's 988 & Behavioral Health Crisis System design and functions including implementation of mobile crisis state-wide in alignment with Crisis Now standards
- Oversaw OHA's Social Determinants of Health team during a critical time of investing \$230 million (passed by the Oregon state legislature via HB 5202 and HB 5024 (2021) of capital funds into residential treatment facilities and supportive housing for adults with SPMI to address the state hospital crisis and Mink/Bowman compliance challenges.

- Served as a key liaison and point for regional level (often County) Local Mental Health Authorities and Community Mental Health Programs for state non-Medicaid funds state-wide for behavioral health services.

Multnomah County Health Department

December 2021 – May 2022

Behavioral Health Division

209 SW 4th Ave., Suite 520 (Five Oak Bldg.)

Portland, OR 97204

Deputy Director

- Serve as the Deputy Director of a large, metropolitan jurisdiction/local government level behavioral health division that serves the Local Mental Health Authority, with over 200 staff
- Manage budget, contract operations and overall operations for the division
- Directly oversee substance use disorder services, including prevention for the division
- Serve as the internal housing coordination leadership accountability point across behavioral health with other County, city and state level departments for policy, funding and innovation
- Harmonize the internal sections of the behavioral health division and support leadership development and support needs of the senior management team and ensure behavioral health staffing needs are met
- Support provider relations, upstream funding accountability and staff development across a variety of behavioral health, social justice and related County and Health Department initiatives

Public Defender Association (PDA)

January 2020 – November 2021

110 Prefontaine Pl S, Suite 400

Deputy Director & CoLEAD Program Director

- Serve as Deputy Director of rapidly growing non-profit based out of Seattle that is engaged in criminal legal system reforms (not public defense) from both policy and program perspectives
- Built an innovative, pandemic-era program called CoLEAD for individuals with legal systems exposure who live in encampments in Seattle/King Co and have unmet behavioral health needs and live in extreme poverty based on the flagship LEAD model developed by PDA in 2011 and now in 300+ jurisdictions internationally
- Systems analyses and expertise for needed healthcare system reforms and homelessness system building for some of the most complex and challenging community members
- Worked closely with Medicaid 1115 Waiver (HealthierHere) and King County Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to develop a Medicaid pilot based on the CoLEAD model of care
- Created, staffed and provided backbone support for the JustCARE coalition, an encampment field approach and temporary lodging response for individuals at the intersection of homelessness, mental health disability and deep substance use, and poverty from a racial justice and centering most impacted framework

Diversion and Reentry Services

May 2017 to February 2020

King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD)

Department of Community and Human Services

401 5th Avenue, Ste. 400, Seattle, WA 98104

Project/Program Manager IV, Diversion and Reentry Services Section Manager

- Oversee a team of eight staff, \$35M/year budget, and policy for various social services jail diversion and reentry programs at the intersection of behavioral health and homelessness
- Adept braided funding budget and contracting oversight for many specialty programs serving marginalized behavioral health populations
- Criminal justice reform strategic advisor/lead across several policy initiatives (e.g. King County Familiar Faces Initiative), with a goal of health and human services system (physical and behavioral health integration) to reduce use of crisis response (hospital, jail and courts as a response to behavioral health conditions and other social determinants)
- Deep knowledge of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion/Let Everyone Advance with Dignity (LEAD) program and key player in King County support and expansion over many years; developed and oversaw prosecutorial diversion programs for individuals who are not legally competent to proceed in a criminal court matter and led early innovations for diversion to programs and housing for the Trueblood population in King County

Diversion and Reentry Services

May 2013 to May 2017

King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD)

Diversion & Reentry Services Coordinator (Project/Program Manager III)

- Lead for one of King County's Health and Human Services Transformation Plan strategies – the Familiar Faces Initiative (LEAN continuous improvement design work, collective impact multi-sector leadership for systems change and strategizing across competing political agendas) for a complex healthcare high utilizer population
- Strategic leadership across various community organizations to best bring service providers and systems together across many domains (housing/homelessness, behavioral health, physical healthcare, managed care) for better service integration centering those most marginalized
- Complex budget oversight, program design and implementation of evidence-based, best and community informed practices (culturally responsive)
- Oversee staff managing contracts, program development and systems coordination

Criminal Justice Initiatives Project (post-booking jail diversion)

July 2007 to May 2013

King County BHRD (prior name: Mental Health Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division)

401 5th Avenue, Ste. 400

Seattle, WA 98104

Project/Program Manager II (Contract Monitor)

- Contract Monitor for programs serving individuals with mental health and co-occurring substance abuse disorders who become involved in the criminal justice system; Serve as the division liaison for two local mental health courts

- Early adopter and leader in department level Equity and Social Justice leadership team
- Author Request for Proposals, including program design and subsequent development of contracts

Sound Mental Health

June 2003 to July 2007

King County Correctional Facility
Seattle, WA

Program Manager & Criminal Justice Liaison (Clinician)

- Program development, referral protocols, incorporation of new system efficiencies, supervised staff
- Successful grant writing for a local reentry case management program and program development
- Conducted psycho-social assessments; provide linkages to healthcare coverage/disability entitlements, community-based treatment, housing and social services for individuals with behavioral health issues
- 2004 King County MHCADSD Exemplary Service Award for Service Innovation

New Horizons Treatment Program

April 1999 to June 2003

Humboldt County Probation Department
Eureka, CA 95503

Juvenile Corrections Officer/Counselor.

- 18-bed residential treatment facility for adolescents with mental health disabilities and substance use disorders and significant trauma

Select Presentations of Note

Multiple Briefings to the Seattle City Council and to the Council Public Safety Committee

June 2021, May 2020, September 2020

Adapting LEAD for the COVID-19 crisis & beyond to test new models of care paired with hotel-based temporary housing.

Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) National Forum: United We Stand, March 2020

Bureau of Justice Assistance Supports: Responding to America’s Opioid Crisis

Refining ‘Diversion’: Systemic Responses to Illicit Drug Use, LEAD National Support Bureau and Seattle/King County LEAD

Guest Lecturer, University of Washington School of Law, Mental Health and the Law (Professor Chris Carney), May 2019

System Intersections: A Closer Look at Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice in King County

Briefing for King County Metropolitan Council, August 2018

Overview of the Trueblood Lawsuit and Related Behavioral Health Services in King County

National Association of Forensic Social Workers Conference, 2016

The Familiar Faces Initiative: Social Justice and Collective Impact for Health and Human Services Transformation

Intermountain Mental Health Court Conference, June 2011

New Models of Community-based Services for Mental Health Court Populations

The National GAINS Center National Conference, March 2010

Competency Court Linkages to New Models of Community Based Mental Health Treatment

Other Interests and Expertise & Volunteer work

King County Trans Resource and Referral Guide

Founding member and part of founding collective who developed the first Trans Resource and Referral Guide in King County, secured government funds and supports for the [2014 version](#), supported, secured funding and served on board for [2017 version](#)

Leadership Development Director, Gender Justice League

2011 - 2013

A trans justice activist collective based in Seattle, Washington focused on community organizing for trans rights, launched Trans Pride in Seattle (still going) and many other focus areas

Leadership Training & Development, Out in Front LGBTQ Leadership Program

2010 - 2012

Graduate of the 2011 Class

Program Development Committee, Diversity

(<http://www.outinfrontseattle.org/>)

Podcast Co-Founder, Co-Host, Gendercast: Our Transmasculine Genderqueery

2010 – 2015

Mission: A podcast for the Transgender Community and Allies: Gendercast is an exploration of gender and what it means to live in, challenge and exist beyond the binary. It is a conversation between all those who identify along the transmasculine spectrum and our allies and supporters. It is a commentary on our culture and a reflection on where we have come from and where we are headed.

Produced 41 hour long episodes interviewing a range of social justice leaders (cis and trans) working on a variety of social justice issues, maintained an episode webpage, blog, supervised interns, presented at several national conferences. Topics included trans healthcare, military industrial complex, prison industrial complex, queer sexualities, trans film festival, sex work, and much more.