Dr. Nancy Young

Dr. Young is the Executive Director of Children and Family Futures, a California-based research and policy institute whose mission is to improve outcomes for children and families, particularly those affected by alcohol and other drugs. Dr. Young provides overall oversight and strategic direction for the PFR Project.

Dr. Young also serves as Director of the federally-funded National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, which is in its 12th year. Since 2010, she has served as the Director of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s technical assistance program for Family Drug Courts, and the Administration on Children and Family’s technical assistance program for the Regional Partnership Grants Program for the past seven years. Through these programs and serving as a consultant to various states, counties and tribes, she has been involved in numerous projects related to program evaluation, strategic planning and public policy analysis on alcohol and other drug issues in the welfare and child welfare systems. Prior to co-founding Children and Family Futures in 1996, Dr. Young served as research consultant to the Directorate of the State of California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs. During her tenure, she led a consensus effort to develop a statewide outcomes monitoring system in California.

Dr. Young is a graduate of Cal State Fullerton and received a Master of Social Work and her Ph.D. from the USC School of Social Work. During her doctoral studies, she was the recipient of a pre-doctoral fellowship with the National Institute on Drug Abuse focused on the public policy and research issues affecting children of substance abusers. Her work and that of CFF has been recognized by the Outstanding Contractor of the Year award in 2006 from the Federal Administration on Children and Families and by a resolution issued in 2008 by the Orange County Board of Supervisors. She was also awarded the Directors’ Robert E. Anderson Service Award by the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors.

Phil Breitenbucher, PFR Project Director

Mr. Breitenbucher is the Director of the National Family Drug Court Technical Assistance and Training Program at Children and Family Futures (CFF) and currently serves as PFR Project Director. In this capacity, he is responsible for the overall implementation of the PFR Project and all primary communication with the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Duke Endowment, the PFR National Advisory Council and other key stakeholders.

Mr. Breitenbucher has approximately 15 years of progressively responsible experience in the management of public child welfare and community-based prevention services, including the implementation and management of three Family Drug Court sites, four Family Resource Centers as well as various prevention, diversion and early intervention programs. He is currently a program director for the Center for Children and Family Futures, which operates the National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) and the National Family Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) program. His primary areas of responsibility include the overall
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management of the Family Drug Court (FDC) Training and Technical Assistance program and providing consultation and technical assistance to states and counties working to implement strategies related to substance abuse and child welfare. He is also currently the Project Director for the OJJDP-funded Statewide System Reform Program and was co-Project Director for the Children Affected by Methamphetamine (CAM) grant program for children whose parents are involved in family drug court programs.

Mr. Breitenbucher has served as faculty to national organizations such as the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges and Family Court Judges, Child Welfare League of America, National Association of Drug Court Professionals and the American Humane Association. He holds a Master’s degree in Social Work from California State University, San Bernardino with an emphasis in Public Administration and has served as Field Instructor for California State University, San Bernardino, Loma Linda University and the University of Southern California.

**Kim Dennis, PFR Project Manager and Change Leader Associate**

Ms. Dennis is a Senior Program Associate at Children and Family Futures (CFF) and currently serves as Project Manager and Change Leader Associate for the PFR project. Ms. Dennis has more than 20 years of experience as a researcher, analyst, and writer on diverse issues including substance abuse, child welfare, early childhood development, health care, welfare reform, homelessness, and community development. Prior to PFR, Ms. Dennis worked on the Regional Partnership Grant (RPG) Program Support Contract where her responsibilities included development and tracking of a RPG performance measurement system; data analysis and preparation of reports for grantees, Children’s Bureau and Congress; provision of evaluation-related technical assistance to grantees; and content and materials development for RPG grantee meetings, Webinars and other training events. Ms. Dennis also served for four years as Project Manager of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) Technical Support on Women, Children and TANF contract, where she helped develop national conferences on women’s substance abuse treatment; convened and provided technical support to the State Women’s Services Coordinator Network; developed briefing papers, reports and presentations on women and children’s issues; and conducted analyses of national substance abuse datasets (e.g., NSDUH, TEDS, N-SSATS) to inform local, state and federal strategic planning.

Prior to CFF, Ms. Dennis was a Community Analyst at the Center for Child Health Outcomes, Rady Children’s Hospital, San Diego, where she evaluated the effectiveness of community-based programs designed to improve children’s health and well-being. Ms. Dennis has spent most of her professional career in the public sector, working for nonprofit organizations in California, Washington, D.C. and New York City. Ms. Dennis has a Master of Public Administration, with a concentration in advanced policy analysis, from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from University of California, Berkeley.

**Dr. Chad Rodi, PFR Evaluation Director**

Chad Rodi serves as the Research and Evaluation Director for Children and Family Futures, where he oversees local, state and federally-funded projects that measure performance effectiveness and evaluate outcomes for children and families affected by substance use disorders who are at risk or involved with child welfare services. In this capacity, Dr. Rodi supervises members of the research and evaluation team, conducts evaluations, analyzes performance measurement and outcome data, provides evaluation technical assistance, disseminates findings, and designs models for data collection. For the PFR project, Dr. Rodi manages the evaluation component and oversees the quantitative and qualitative data collection and analyses.

Dr. Rodi is an experienced applied social science researcher and program evaluator with expertise in child welfare, special education, children’s mental health, suicide prevention and teen pregnancy.
prevention. Dr. Rodi’s previous positions include Project Director of the Cross-site Evaluation of the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Programs; Project Director for the Outcome Evaluation of the CDC's Community-wide Approaches to Teen Pregnancy Prevention initiative; Assistant Director of the Special Education Expenditure Project; and Task Leader for the US Department of Education's Center for Effective Collaboration and Practice. He has also led numerous other efforts to better understand and evaluate initiatives supported by other organizations including the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and various state education, welfare and substance abuse agencies.

Dr. Rodi has evaluated statewide infrastructure development programs, national education finance systems, child welfare policies, and educational interventions. He has presented his findings at symposia and professional meetings across the country to a wide array of practitioners, consumers, academic researchers and policy makers, in addition to publishing articles in refereed journals and edited book chapters.

Dr. Rodi received his Masters in Special Education from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University, with a focus on children and youth with severe, low-incidence disabilities. His doctorate is also from Vanderbilt where he completed an interdisciplinary major in policy development and program evaluation. He has a Bachelors in Women’s Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

**Theresa Lemus, PFR Change Leader**

Ms. Lemus is a Senior Program Associate at Children and Family Futures (CFF) and serves as a Change Leader for three of the PFR sites (Pima, San Francisco and Tompkins). Ms. Lemus has over 22 years of professional experience administering and providing direct clinical services in the Health and Human Services field. She has worked in both the public and private sector. Her experience includes working with children, youth, and adults in various settings including mental and physical healthcare, substance abuse prevention and treatment, child welfare, and the judicial system.

Ms. Lemus has extensive knowledge and experience with Family Drug Courts. As the Executive Director of a community-based, non-profit treatment agency, she worked closely with the Washoe County Family Drug Court in Nevada. Ms. Lemus served as a team facilitator and content expert for the National Drug Court Institute’s Family Dependency Drug Court Technical Assistance program from 2000 until the program ended in 2006.

Ms. Lemus has worked with Children and Family Futures and the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare since 2007 to help develop technical assistance programs and recommendations for federal, state and local government agencies and nationwide community organizations to improve outcomes for families affected by substance abuse in the child welfare system. She also currently serves as a Change Leader on the OJJDP-funded Statewide System Reform Program and provides coaching and technical assistance to family drug courts across the nation. Previously, she served as an expert advisor and technical consultant to the Children's Bureau-funded Regional Partnership Grants and the SAMHSA-funded Children Affected by Methamphetamine grant sites.

Ms. Lemus holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Science of Nursing (BSN) from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. Her Master’s Degree is in Business Administration with an emphasis on non-profit management. Ms. Lemus holds an active license as a Registered Nurse and as a Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor in the State of Nevada. She is certified as a Counseling Supervisor for interns in the field of drug and alcohol counseling.
Jane Pfeifer, PFR Change Leader

Ms. Pfeifer is a Senior Program Associate at Children and Family Futures (CFF) and serves as Change Leader for the Robeson County PFR site. She has over 20 years of experience working in the criminal justice system and 17 years of experience working with drug courts at the local, state and national level. As a Drug Court Program Manager, Ms. Pfeifer oversaw the day-to-day fiscal, programmatic and administrative operations of an Adult and Juvenile Drug Court Program. She has served as Lead Faculty for the National Drug Court Institute, providing TTA to adult and family drug court teams across the country, and as faculty for other organizations including the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and National Judicial College. Ms. Pfeifer is a highly skilled trainer, providing computer-based and onsite training to local, state and national audiences on a range of topics including case management, collaboration, community resource development and the needs of rural jurisdictions. In addition to her role on the PFR project, Ms. Pfeifer serves as a Program Management Liaison for the Regional Partnership Grant program and leads the development of FDC Guidelines. She was also the lead on the FDC Peer Learning Courts project. Ms. Pfeifer received her Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and Psychology from California State University, Chico.

Marianna Corona, PFR Change Leader Associate

Ms. Corona is a Research Associate at Children and Family Futures and serves as a Change Leader Associate for the PFR project. In her position at CFF, Ms. Corona also provides support to the Regional Partnership Grant (RPG) project, serving as a Performance Management Liaison (PML) and conducting qualitative research to support the evaluation of the RPG Two-Year Extension project. She also works as an Associate on the In-Depth Technical Assistance (IDTA) project through the NCSACW. In addition, Ms. Corona has been involved in conducting Trauma Walkthroughs with grantees interested in improving services for clients by improving the delivery of trauma-informed care.

Prior to joining CFF, Ms. Corona was a Research Associate with a California-based evaluation firm working in program evaluation, strategic planning, and facilitation. Ms. Corona is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in the state of California and previously worked as a direct services mental health provider with San Diego County California based non-profit organizations, specializing in trauma and domestic violence. Ms. Corona received her Master of Social Welfare from University of California, Berkeley and Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Stanford University.

Jill Gresham, PFR Change Leader Associate

Ms. Gresham is a Senior Program Associate with the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare at Children and Family Futures and serves as a Change Leader Associate for the PFR project. In her position at CFF, Ms. Gresham serves as an advisor and technical consultant to states, counties, tribes and regions across the country in issues related to substance abuse, child welfare and the courts, providing and coordinating various levels of technical assistance.

Ms. Gresham has more than 15 years of experience in the substance abuse field, the majority of which was working with women and mothers. She is familiar with the spectrum of substance abuse services and trauma and brings experience in everything from harm reduction housing to long term residential programs for pregnant and parenting women. In her roles as clinician and director, Ms. Gresham worked closely with Child Protective Services, sitting on Child Protective Teams and an advisory board to King County’s Family Treatment Court. Prior to joining Children and Family Futures, she co-founded and directed New Traditions, an outpatient treatment facility for low income, pregnant and parenting women in Seattle, Washington. Ms. Gresham received her Master’s in Psychology, Counseling from Antioch University Seattle and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Massachusetts.

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Ashay Shah, PFR Research Associate and Change Leader Associate

Mr. Shah is a Research Associate at Children and Family Futures and serves as a Research Associate and Change Leader Associate for the PFR initiative. In this capacity, he works closely with PFR grantees to provide TA and support for performance measurement and process improvement. Mr. Shah is an experienced evaluator and social work professional with 4 years of experience in special education, prevention and early intervention services and substance abuse services. His experience in direct service and research allows him to design, develop and implement evaluations that measure and report on outcomes, process improvements and program effectiveness while maintaining sensitivity to the population being served. Mr. Shah is experienced in rigorous quantitative data analysis, geographical data analysis, cost analysis, qualitative data analysis and interpretation as well as instrument development, design and implementation. Mr. Shah received a Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with a minor in Humanities and Law.

Lisa Tran, PFR Administrative Assistant

Ms. Tran is an Administrative Assistant at CFF, where she assists all staff with administrative and programmatic functions. She currently supports the Prevention and Family Recovery (PFR) and Substance-Exposed Infants In-Depth Technical Assistance (SEI-IDTA) projects. She is the first line of communication for clients, assists with the overflow of work across all projects, and supports the Office Manager in ensuring successful operation of the office.

Prior to joining CFF, Ms. Tran was a full-time student at UC Irvine. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and double minors in Spanish and Conflict Resolution in June of 2013. In her free time she enjoys volunteering for youth-serving organizations, and is currently the Administrative/Financial Coordinator at Project MotiVATE, a local nonprofit that provides free mentoring services for at-risk Vietnamese-American teens in Orange County. In the future she hopes to continue her education in a Master’s program for Marriage and Family Therapy or Youth Development.