

Nikki Buckstead, BA, SAPS
Chief Executive Officer

With over fourteen years in the substance abuse field, and over nine years management experience with NCADD, Ms. Buckstead's executive experience includes program planning and development, budget preparation and monitoring, working with a non-profit board of directors, human resources management, and clinical management. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology – along with certification as a Substance Abuse Counselor, and she is a Certified Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist through the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration.

Her work includes school-based, community based and inter-agency collaborative projects. Among her achievements at NCADD, Ms. Buckstead led the agency into its current role as a major regional provider for the Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act Program, and was responsible for implementing the first Strengthening Families Program in Sacramento. Most recently, she obtained the Options for Recovery Program, a substance abuse perinatal program and within that time has led it to be one of the top perinatal programs in the state of California. Ms. Buckstead was also the first to bring an evidence-based, best-practice alcohol and drug prevention program (Strengthening Families Program) to Sacramento County. Since that time, the Strengthening Families Program has since been implemented by eight other local agencies serving over 200 families in Sacramento every year.

Ms. Buckstead has been involved in numerous successful partnerships, including a major research study on the effectiveness of a voter initiative funded alternatives to incarceration program with the University of California, Los Angeles; recognition by the Sacramento County Juvenile Probation Department for work in the Youth First Offender Program, and assistance in the writing and implementation of an anti-alcohol sponsorship policy for Sacramento County treatment and prevention providers.

Ms. Buckstead facilitated the Governor's Prevention Advisory Council's Methamphetamine Implementation Prevention Workgroup, the state's largest collaboration on methamphetamine prevention. Working closely with the Office of

the Attorney General, the collaboration focused on the three-pronged approach to the methamphetamine epidemic: prevention, treatment and law enforcement.

Ms. Buckstead serves as a Certified Consultant for the Community Prevention Institute, is a Prevention Advisory Board Member for the San Juan Unified School District, and a member of Sacramento's Community Expansion Coalition. She is also a registered continuing education provider for the National Association of Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC), California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (CAADAC) and the Board of Behavioral Sciences (BBS).

Ms. Buckstead's current achievements include being honored as one of the 2009 Heroes of Human Services Awards recipients. Also, Ms. Buckstead has been instrumental in bringing much needed free medical services, including women's health services and TB and STD testing, to all programs and clients served at the NCADD.

Elizabeth Herzer, MSW, RAS
Clinical Manager – SACPA, Drug Diversion, CalWorks Outpatient, Family Court Services

Elizabeth Herzer, known as Sergeant Airborne in some circles, successfully completed six years of military service in the United States Army. She worked for four years as an instructor at Ft. Benning's Jump School and two years as an instructor at the Primary Leadership Academy. As a student, she was awarded the "Honor Graduate" at both training facilities.

Upon completion of her tour of duty, Ms. Herzer completed six years of college to obtain her Masters Degree in Social Work. Her concentration was on Child and Family. Later she obtained her Registered Addiction Specialist Certification through the Breining Institute. Ms. Herzer has experience providing counseling services to children, teens, couples, families, as well as to the drug offender population.

Ms. Herzer began working at the NCADD, Sacramento in 1998 as a counselor for the PC1000 – Drug Diversion Program Education Program and as an advisor to the Families and School Program (FAST) program, operated by the San Juan Unified School District. Since 2001, she has been actively involved with the collaboration and

implementation of the largest treatment project in the country – the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act. As the Clinical Manager, she has been part of a multi-disciplinarian team which includes Sacramento County Probation Department, State Parole and Sacramento County Alcohol and Drug/Mental Health social workers. Ms. Herzer is also the court liaison for our Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act clients, working closely with law enforcement and the courts to ensure advocacy for our clients.

For several years Ms. Herzer facilitated NCADD's award winning family prevention program called Strengthening Families (also known as Families Living Well). She worked closely with our clients to help ensure that the disease of addiction wouldn't be passed down through the generations. She has motivated children and parents to communicate with one another, spend quality time together, and enhance family functioning.

Most recently, Ms. Herzer was certified to facilitate the *Substance Misuse Program*, a best practice program developed by Dr. Barbara Armstrong for the Sacramento County Probation Department.

Stephanie Grajeda, BA
Programs Manager – SACPA, Drug Diversion, Parolee Services Network, CalWorks
Treatment Program, Family Court Services, Employee Assistance Program

With over eight years of program management services in the field substance abuse treatment and prevention, Ms. Grajeda is responsible for program implementation and development of various programs at the NCADD, Sacramento. A former middle-school teacher in Sacramento, Ms. Grajeda has a B.A. in English and a single-subject credential in English with a Cross Cultural Language Acquisition Development Certification. Ms. Grajeda taught English as a Second Language (ESL) in Japan and Latvia.

Ms. Grajeda is certified through Iowa State University as a Trainer of Trainers for the award-winning, best-practice Strengthening Families Program (NCADD's Families Living Well Program). Ms. Grajeda was instrumental in leading the

implementation of this evidence based, best-practice prevention program at NCADD and. It was the first program of its kind to be implemented in Sacramento, and it is now in use by several other community agencies. Ms. Grajeda facilitated the youth portion of the program for several years. She worked with many families who had successfully completed services at NCADD and watched them go on to graduate from the Families Living Program. In 2008 she became certified to facilitate the expansion of the program, to include serving youth ages three to 16 years old.

Ms. Grajeda is responsible for monitoring several of NCADD's programs including the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention SACPA, Drug Diversion Program, Parolee Services Network and the Family Court Services Assessment Program. She oversees the development and management of NCADD's one-of-a-kind automated treatment information system database, and works closely with County and State officials, ensuring fidelity and positive program outcomes of all NCADD programs. Ms. Grajeda is a Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist through the Center on Substance Abuse Prevention.

She is currently developing and implementing an Employee Assistance Program for community businesses. Currently she is working on entering the nursing field. Ms. Grajeda has been with the agency full-time since 2001, and looks forward to working as a nurse for the NCADD in the future.

Angela Da Re, SAPS Director of Prevention Programs

Ms. Da Re has over 15 years of experience in the field of substance abuse prevention and youth violence prevention programs and strategies as well as community mobilization. She has worked with large and small prevention and early intervention agencies state-wide. In her position at NCADD Sacramento she oversees all of the agency's prevention programs and strategies which encompass all of the domains of prevention.

Ms. Da Re is involved with several local coalitions including the City of Sacramento's Office of Youth Development Youth Violence Technical Team on which she serves as the Chair of the Research and Evidence Subcommittee. In addition, she works

extensively with the Sacramento Youth and Alcohol Coalition in the pursuit of changing the face of youth alcohol access in Sacramento. Ms. Da Re is also a proud member of the Sacramento County Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board's prevention subcommittee. As an independent contractor, Ms. Da Re provides trainings, technical assistance, and prevention planning services to counties as well as community agencies state-wide, with a particular emphasis on youth and the challenges that communities, schools, families, and young people face, in preventing youth substance abuse. She has also had the privilege of speaking nationally on these same issues. As a youth service provider, her insights into the youth culture as well as her ability to relate to young people and the challenges they face has helped Ms. Da Re connect with the thousands of youth that she has worked with over the years.

In addition to working on community based prevention, Ms. Da Re has extensive experience working on various agency and community-based evaluation projects. She has been trained as both a facilitator as well as a trainer in multiple evidence-based programs and currently implements the Strengthening Families curriculum with families in Sacramento from various walks of life. She has worked extensively with schools, local educational, and youth serving agencies. Ms. Da Re has been certified by the Western Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (WESTCAPT) as a Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Trainer.

Delita Alvarado, CADIC II, FACT Options for Recovery – Clinical Supervisor

Ms. Alvarado has been a certified alcohol and drug counselor for 17 years. She is also certified as a Forensic Addictions Correctional Treatment counselor, expertise which was put to use when she worked for eight years with the criminal justice population both inside California State Prison at Folsom and as a provider of residential and federal halfway house treatment services for parolees.

Prior to her work in correctional institutions she worked with women in both residential and outpatient environments along with adolescents and the homeless population living in shelters. She brings to the NCADD Sacramento 20 years of Substance Abuse

counseling experience and over 25 years of her personal understanding and experience of the recovery community. Ms. Alvarado is a past member of the Sacramento Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board.

Colby Meuret
Human Resources and Accounting Manager

With over nine years of employee benefits administration experience, Ms. Meuret is responsible for the Accounting and Human Resources departments with NCADD Sacramento. With experience in working a pension administrator across the country, Ms. Meuret is fluent in current IRS rules and regulations and current HR practices. Ms. Meuret works closely with outside vendors and agencies to keep processes streamlined and cost efficient. She has recently implemented a new timekeeping system along with a volunteer and intern orientation program.

Currently, Ms. Meuret is studying to obtain her B.A. in Accounting and Business and has been with the agency since 2008.

Hannah Goin, BA
Fund Developer

With six years experience in the Development field, Ms. Goin is responsible for researching and writing grant proposals that will continue to provide funding for the NCADD Sacramento's programs and support services as well as acquiring donations of goods and services for the various needs of the agency. Ms. Goin began working for the NCADD Sacramento while still a student in high school and returned to the agency in 2009. She is a published writer who graduated *cum laude* with a B.A. in Integral Liberal Studies from St. Mary's College of California.