

Behavioral Health Crisis Response for Youth

Panelist Biographies

Dianne Boyd, Children's Crisis Outreach Response System (CCORS)

Dianne is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Child Mental Health Specialist with 38 years of experience. Prior to working for the YMCA Social Impact Center, Dianne worked at Ruth Dykeman Children's Center for 26 years in the adolescent girls Residential Treatment program and later overseeing the outpatient behavioral health services. Dianne began working for the Y Social Impact Center in 2010. As the Clinical Director, she oversees the various crisis services that include: the Children's Crisis Outreach Response System (CCORS) program, Crisis Outreach Response for Young Adults (CORS YA), Crisis Response for Developmental Disabilities (CORS DD), Youth Connection Services (YCS) and Timely Response to Adverse Childhood Experiences (TRACE).

Starleen Maharaj-Lewis Championing Family Engagement in Transformative Care

Starleen Maharaj-Lewis is a dedicated leader with over 10 years of experience in transformative care integration and capacity building and has emerged as a visionary force in the realm of public health and family and community engagement. As a dual USA/Canada citizen and parent to a neurodiverse young person, Starleen brings a unique perspective to her work, applying a trauma-informed lens and targeted universalism to drive meaningful change in belonging.

Highlights:

Starleen's journey as a thoughtful leader has been marked by a commitment to transformative care integration and capacity building among youth and caregivers, building upon the seven vital conditions for health and well-being. Strategic planning efforts focus on the intersections of wellbeing to operationalize sustainable improvements that support lived experiences and subject matter expertise of parents/caregivers.

Starleen is instrumental in syndemic planning and alignment. Her commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is evident with the implementation of impactful DEI policies in adolescent health, emphasizing statewide innovation. She developed a multi-level innovation framework, showcased at national conferences, highlighting her leadership in fostering collaboration between tribal and non-tribal agencies.

As the Systems and Family Tri-chair at North Sound FYSPRT, Starleen dedicates herself to high-level policy making and strategic planning with a pro-equity lens. This amplifies the needs of underserved families and ensures effective performance management for stakeholders, the community, and government policy.

Beyond her professional commitments, Starleen supports the prosocial development of at-risk youth as a parent first by building extrinsic support when intrinsic motivations are absent, improving through personal best practices and lessons learned and fostering peer-to-peer connections. Her transformative leadership in public health, particularly in family and youth engagement, reflects a commitment to inclusivity, equity, and well-being, guiding her vision for a healthier future.

Sue Rash, Children's Crisis Outreach Response System

Sue Rash, MS LMHC- Clinical Supervisor with the Children's Crisis Outreach Response System (CCORS) program at the Y Social Impact Center. Sue has been working in behavioral health in King County since 1995 and has been with CCORS since 2007.

Dr. Alysha Thompson, Seattle Children's Hospital

Alysha Thompson, PhD is the Clinical Director and attending psychologist on the Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Unit at Seattle Children's Hospital and Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at University of Washington. Prior to joining the staff and faculty at Seattle Children's/UW, she was a staff psychologist on the Adolescent Inpatient Unit at Bradley Hospital and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University. She is an active participant in training future psychiatrists and psychologists and currently serves as Chair of the Acute, Intensive, and Residential Services Special Interest Group of Division 53 of the American Psychological Association, a national group of psychologists. Dr. Thompson has authored multiple publications regarding inpatient psychiatric treatment for youth and has forged collaborations with psychiatrists and psychologists working in inpatient psychiatry and acute care around the country. In addition, she is actively engaged in advocacy efforts regarding improvement the mental health care system for youth. She is passionate about providing quality services to youth experiencing severe mental health crises and has specific areas of expertise in working with youth with trauma histories and suicidality.

Dr. Thompson completed her graduate education at Suffolk University in Boston in clinical psychology with an emphasis in child and adolescent clinical psychology. She completed residency in pediatric psychology at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago and went on to complete a fellowship in clinical psychology with an emphasis in trauma in children and adolescents at the Trauma Center at Justice Resource Institute.