

# Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Panelist Biographies

## **David O'Neal, IDD Services Director, Sound Mental Health**

David currently manages a 45-person, interdisciplinary staff team involved in the provision of mental health, vocational, chemical dependency, crisis stabilization, solution based systemic problem solving, and case management for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. My role is to build community and system capacity to better understand the strength and vulnerabilities of this unique population. As a lifelong learner, I always strive to improve and have created many new programs and projects, including an award-winning program for chemical dependency services targeted to this population. Follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/SoundIDD>. In addition to that fun, I also work with the Center for START Services at the Institute on Disability/UCED at the University of New Hampshire. <http://www.centerforstartservices.org> as a project instructor and trainer and as a Clinical Director for Special Olympics Strong Minds Healthy Athletes Initiative!

## **DeAnn Adams, Clinical Program Manager, Washington Developmental Disabilities Administration**

DeAnn Adams holds a Master's Degree from University of Washington School of Social Work and has over 25 years' experience working in the fields of youth and young adult homelessness, transitional housing, foster care, residential treatment, behavioral health management and crisis intervention. This work has been done both within the public and non-profit sector and joining DDA in 2022 as the Clinical Supports Program Manager for Northwest region of Washington state.

## **Debra Hughes, Clinical Supports Director, Hope Human Services**

Debra Hughes is the Clinical Supports Director for Hope Human Services in Pierce County. She has over 14 years of experience in providing social, behavioral and clinical supports in Australia, Scotland and the United States. In her role with Hope Human Services, she works with multiple programs to provide overarching behavioral health focused clinical supports. This includes coordinating services for individuals with developmental disabilities and complex support needs. Central to Debra's role is providing clinical support to the HHS bed-based Diversion program. The program focuses on supporting individuals in crisis situations referred through DDA. It provides short-term placement, structured habilitative and positive behavior supports, and focuses on addressing key needs so individuals can stabilize and are set up to succeed in a residential long-term placement. Debra is one of the agency's certified trainers for the Green Zone Energy Focused Personal Support curriculum as well as Ukeru "Least Resistance" Approach to Crisis Management framework curriculum. She also provides direct and indirect crisis intervention support for all of Hope Human Services' programs, especially when supported individuals are in need of emergency services intervention or the need for a Designated Crisis Responder. Debra is passionate about advocating for equity of individuals with complex challenges and dual diagnosis, as they often are unable to access the services they need to be successful. Throughout her career Debra has been part of the journey of supporting dozens of individuals through intense challenges and barriers, some of whom were believed to be unable to be supported in a community setting and who have then flourished and exceeded expectations.

### **Heather Gethers, Case Manager, Washington Developmental Disabilities Administration**

Heather Gethers has worked in the social services industry for nearly 20 years. She has worked from direct care staff into management, which has been beneficial to build strong teams and carry out the mission of an organization with great success. Heather is currently a case manager with the Washington Developmental Disabilities Administration. She previously worked as the staffing manager with SKILLS'KIN where she successfully restructured a Prevocational program and placed clients in community-based employment.

### **Jermaine and Mikelle Hayes, Parents of a 10-year-old boy with IDD**

### **Jim Ott, Community Information and Outreach Program Manager, Developmental Disabilities and Early Childhood Supports Division of King County**

Jim Ott has over thirty years of experience implementing and administering innovative, best practice and evidence based early intervention and prevention programs. He has worked in the areas of developmental disabilities, early childhood, home visiting, youth development, family support, juvenile justice, and public health. Jim currently works for the King County Developmental Disabilities and Early Childhood Supports Division where he manages community information and outreach programs, in-home behavioral support programs, and co-staffs the King County Board for Developmental Disabilities. Jim is interested in programming that is responsive to the intersecting needs and identifies of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Jim was born and raised in Seattle. He and his wife have five adult children and a growing number of grandchildren.

### **Katrina Davis, Family Advocate and Case Manager – Profound Autism and IDD, Seattle Children's Emergency Department; Parent Advocate and Resource Specialist, ECHO Autism and IDD Washington, Institute on Human Development and Disability, University of Washington**

Katrina Davis is a mother of two children and a career advocate who brings a blend of personal and professional expertise to her role as crisis case manager at Seattle Children's Emergency Department and as Resource Specialist and Parent Advocate HUB team member for several Autism ECHO cohorts at University of Washington's WA INCLUDE Collaborative. Katrina specializes in the unique needs and services for the profound autism and IDD population. She has come to know autism services and resources through advocacy for her own autistic son for the last 25 years and through her sincere interest in helping others navigate the complex maze that accompanies an autism and/or IDD diagnosis and the life-long journey. With a background and extensive experience in disability services, advocacy, and resource navigation, Katrina is skilled at assisting parents, families, and individuals as they seek vital autism and IDD services, supports, and information.