

Mayor's Advisory Panel on Sexual Assault and System Reform Members

Megan Allen, Legal Advocacy Manager, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center

Megan Allen has been with the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) since 2000, first as a legal advocate and then as manager of the legal advocacy program. She oversees a team of 20 legal advocates, including three legal advocacy supervisors, who assist individuals and families impacted by sexual assault as they navigate the criminal justice process. Helping provide the needed information and support to reduce system barriers and improve system response to victims, Megan and her team manage an overall caseload of about 1,200 at any given time and assist over 2,500 survivors each year.

Megan provides statewide and countywide trainings on legal advocacy, sexual assault, and the criminal justice process including representing advocacy services in the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) Sexual Assault Investigations Victim-Centered Engagement and Resiliency Tactics training. Additionally, she has represented the interests of crime victims and sexual assault awareness in statewide legislative workgroups and task forces, including Sex Offender Policy Board Adult and Juvenile Legislative Work Groups, Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force, and the HB1320 Protection Order Work Group. Megan is also a member of the CJTC Case Review Team.

Prior to KCSARC, Megan was a residential supervisor and counselor working with youth involved in long-term treatment for criminal, behavioral, and mental health issues. Megan has long been an advocate for youth, with experience implementing the positive peer program, group therapy and recreational therapy. Megan has a bachelor's degree in sociology with an interdisciplinary in criminal justice.

Michael Cervantes, Policy Manager, Seattle Indian Health Board

Michael Cervantes (Penelakut Tribe) is the Policy Manager at Seattle Indian Health Board. He manages public policy and advocacy projects that impact the health and well-being of urban American Indian and Alaska Native people. His portfolio includes public health systems, gender-based violence, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & People (MMIWP). In 2022, Michael was a Udall Scholar that worked in the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. His background includes working as an elementary school teacher and youth development programming for urban and rural Native communities.

Michael received his Master of Public Administration from the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance at the University of Washington with a specialization in Analysis and Evaluation. He has 12 years of experience working in American Indian/ Alaska Native communities and aspires to achieve systemic change that will improve community safety and well-being.

George Gonzalez, Assistant Director, Harborview Abuse and Trauma Center

George Gonzalez has worked at the Harborview Abuse and Trauma Center since November 2021 and has over 20 years of leadership experience in child welfare with both the Department of Children Youth and Family Services and Casey Family Programs. In all organizations, he assumed lead roles in developing, addressing and implementing diversity and race equity work efforts to improve practice and policies within those agencies.

George identifies as a cisgender gay Latino Jewish male. He was born and raised in Los Angeles CA and has called Seattle home since 1995. He earned a Master of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work, and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of California San Diego.

Dr. Jackie Helfgott, Professor of Criminal Justice, Criminology, and forensics; Director of the Crime & Justice Research Center, Seattle University

Jacqueline Helfgott is a Professor and Director of the Crime & Justice Research Center in the Department of Criminal Justice, Criminology & Forensics at Seattle University. She holds a PhD and MA in Administration of Justice from the Pennsylvania State University and a BA in Psychology and Society & Justice from the University of Washington. Her research specializations include criminal behavior, psychopathy, copycat crime, corrections/reentry, public safety, police-community relations, crisis intervention in law enforcement, and community/restorative justice. She has served as principal investigator on applied criminal justice research in policing, courts, corrections, and victim services.

Jaqueline is the author, coauthor, and editor of multiple books on criminal behavior and justice and has been published extensively in peer-reviewed journals. She is the co-editor of the *Journal of Criminology*, *Criminal Justice*, *Law and Society*, and a member of the American Society of Criminology, the Western Society of Criminology, the Society for the Scientific Study of Psychopathy, and the Association for Threat Assessment Professionals.

Sara Mooney, Pro Bono Counsel, Sexual Violence Law Center

Sara Mooney is currently Pro Bono Counsel and former Senior Staff Attorney for the Sexual Violence Law Center (SVLC). She currently oversees SVLC's statewide volunteer attorney network to increase free legal representation for survivors, and previously represented survivors at SVLC in a wide variety of legal areas--privacy, housing, employment, immigration, protection orders, and more.

Sara began her legal career in civil legal aid as a staff attorney for the Northwest Justice Project, working primarily with victims of domestic violence on family law matters, while also assisting with employment, public benefits, and housing. Sara then went on to practice criminal defense in Thurston County as a public defender where she handled both misdemeanor and felony cases, and also worked with the county's treatment courts, serving as defense counsel for both Mental Health Court and Drug Court participants. In 2014, the Washington Defender Association recognized Sara for her outstanding work. Prior to a legal career, Sara worked with immigrants and refugees, providing employment services.

Sara previously served on the WSBA's Rules Committee and is a Pro Tem Judge for King County District Courts. She has trained and provided technical assistance to programs at the local, state, and national level on trauma-informed and victim-centered practices. Sara received her Juris Doctorate from Seattle University of Law and bachelor's degree from Western Washington University.

Jennifer Wallace, Program Director – Sexual Assault, Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission

Jen Wallace has served in and around law enforcement for 34 years. She spent her sworn law enforcement career in Seattle as a criminal investigator/Special Agent and supervisor with the U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General, Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS). After her retirement from DCIS, Jen volunteered for the Seattle Police Department (SPD) Victim Support Team, connecting Domestic Violence survivors with community resources. She also worked for the Seattle Police Department (SPD) as a civilian Program Advisor on a Human Trafficking grant prior to moving into her current role as a Program Manager for Sexual Assault Investigations at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) in May 2018. She is the first person to serve in this role.

Informed by her work with DCIS, SPD, and collaborations with the Trauma Resource Institute, Jen has overseen trauma informed training of police officers on sexual assault cases throughout Washington State. Jen has also led sexual assault case reviews through an educational lens annually since 2020. Under Jen's direction, the WSCJTC brought the End Violence Against Women International's Start By Believing campaign to Washington in September 2022. Jen earned a bachelor's degree from George Mason University and a master's degree in policy management from Georgetown University.