

## Day 1

### Keynote Address:

**L. Vance Taylor** (Chief, Office of Access & Functional Needs, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services)



Luis "Vance" Taylor is the Chief of the Office of Access and Functional Needs at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Vance is responsible for ensuring the needs of individuals with disabilities and persons with access or functional needs are identified before, during and after disasters and integrated into the State's emergency management systems.

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Vance was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy as a child and uses a power wheelchair. He has worked in Washington, D.C. as an advisor for two different members of Congress, directed security policy at a national water association and been a principal at a top-ranked homeland security and emergency management consulting firm. Vance is a nationally recognized public speaker and advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Vance has a Master's degree in homeland security from the University of Connecticut and an undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in communications. He is married to his sweetheart, Casey, and they have two wonderful daughters.

Vance and his family live in Rancho Cordova, CA.

## Panel I: Outreach, Partnership & Engagement – The Trifecta of Inclusive Planning

*Summary:* How partnerships between emergency managers and whole community stakeholders enhance planning, response, and recovery before, during, and after all disasters.



*Moderator/Panel Organizer:* **Sadie Martinez** (Access and Functional Needs Coordinator, Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management)

Sadie Martinez is the Colorado State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (DHSEM) Access and Functional Needs Coordinator. Her role focuses on coordinating the development and operations of a statewide network of local partners focusing on Access and Functional Needs integration emergency planning. She supports state agencies and local jurisdictions in the development of inclusive, whole community emergency operations plans that adequately account for people with Access and Functional Needs, emergency preparedness workshops and serves as the Access and Functional Needs subject matter expert during state-level planning initiatives.

Sadie is using the Access and Functional Needs Framework using the CMIST memory tool to support whole community inclusion in emergency management life-cycle resource planning in the functional needs of Communications, Maintain Health, Independence, Safety, Support Services, Self-Determination, and Transportation from a resource standpoint, rather than a special need or vulnerability. Helping Colorado emergency managers better understand what capabilities to acquire before, during, and after a disaster by approaching Access & Functional Needs from a resource perspective.



**Dawn Brantley** (Acting Director, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency)

Dawn Brantley is the Acting Director for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, founder and Vice President of the International Association of Mass Care Professionals, and founder of the Inclusive Emergency Management Community. Prior to her current appointment, she served MEMA as the Assistant Director for Planning and Preparedness where she oversaw the agency's Planning, Tech Hazards, Public Engagement, and Training and Exercise Units.

Director Brantley has previously served in a variety of emergency management positions including serving as Strategic Planning Branch Chief and Sheltering Coordinator at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Regional Inclusive Emergency Planner for the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, Emergency Programs Manager for the Office of Emergency Management, Anchorage, Alaska, and Disability Integration Advisor in FEMA's Reservist program.

Director Brantley is a subject matter expert in inclusive and accessible emergency management, holding both a certified emergency manager and certified ADA Coordinator, and serves on numerous committees and working groups including co-chairing FEMA and EMI's EL-0197 Integrating Disability into Emergency Operations Centers Working Group and co-chairing NEMA's Diversity & Equity Committee.

Director Brantley holds degrees in human services, psychology, and is an attorney focused on the application of non-discrimination laws to emergency management.



**Yumi Sera** (Strategic Advisor, COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force California Department of Public Health)

Yumi Sera is the Strategic Advisor for the State of California's Vaccinate All 58 Campaign, where she has initiated innovative programming and a results-based framework with a focus on equity and access. Prior to this, she was appointed to the California Census Office in March 2019 by Governor Newsom to oversee the statewide outreach campaign to educate people who have been historically undercounted, including partnering with leading California disabled peoples' organizations.

Prior to her positions in California, she worked in philanthropy and grantmaking at the global level focusing on civic engagement, disability rights, indigenous peoples' rights and environmental justice. At the Disabilities Rights Fund, her responsibilities included designing and facilitating accessible and participatory events and meetings, creating communications with positive stories and images of people with disabilities, addressing the impact of climate change on people with disabilities and writing guidelines for gender equality.

As an advisor to OHANA, a grassroots women with disabilities organization in Indonesia, Yumi has fundraised for multi-year projects for advocacy and addressing the impact of the pandemic.



**Bryan Russell** (Project Manager, Disability and Health Program at Florida Department of Health Disability Rights Florida)

Bryan Russell is the Emergency Management Coordinator with Disability Rights Florida where he works to ensure the needs of persons with disabilities and their caregivers are included in emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts across the state. During emergencies and disasters, Bryan serves as the State Access Coordinator with the Florida State Emergency Response Team providing guidance and recommendations to ensure the needs of persons with access and functional needs are met during all phases of disasters.

Prior to this role, Bryan was the Program Manager for the Florida Department of Health's Disability and Health Program where he focused on adapting and implementing public health interventions for persons with disabilities.

Prior to re-joining FL DOH in 2016, Bryan managed the Disability Employment Initiative with CareerSource Gulf Coast in Panama City and other public health programs at the Bay County Health Department.



**Herman Schaffer** (Deputy Commissioner Community Engagement Bureau New York City Emergency Management)

Herman Schaffer is the Deputy Commissioner for the Community Preparedness Bureau at the New York City Emergency Management. In this role, he oversees the agency's community-based programs and initiatives, which focus on enhancing and promoting emergency planning, preparedness, and resiliency.

Prior to joining NYC Emergency Management in 2005, Mr. Schaffer was a case manager with Safe Horizon, connecting victims of the September 11th attacks with local and federal resources to assist with their recovery. He also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia where he helped rural communities develop clean water and hygiene education programs.



## Panel II: Protecting the Whole Community During a Global Pandemic

*Summary:* Emergency managers outline the innovative, inclusive mass vaccination, PPE distribution, and public health mitigation operations being used to protect the whole community during COVID-19.



*Moderator/Panel Organizer:* **Ron Prater** (Executive Director, Big City Emergency Managers)

Ron has been the Executive Director of BCEM since March of 2013. He is also a co-founder of Bent Ear Solutions LLC, a small consulting firm focused on helping public safety agencies plan for and implement emerging technologies. He has more than 25 years' experience helping Federal, state, and local branches of government address some of their most pressing issues.

His original career goal was to work in the high-tech space industry like his father (still the smartest guy he's ever met). After realizing in college that his dad was way smarter than he is, Ron completed his engineering degree but quickly pursued other interests. Though over the last ten years Ron has focused on helping governments define and address homeland security requirements, there are few customer challenges he hasn't supported in his career. Information technology project design and management, strategy development, outreach, human resources, organizational design, training, facilitation, budgeting, strategic sourcing, etc...he has helped clients address all of these issues and more. He feels incredibly lucky to have worked with such great people (coworkers and clients).

Prior to starting Bent Ear Solutions in 2017, Ron was a founder and owner of Corner Alliance Incorporated. Other jobs included starting and leading the Public Safety Business Unit at SRA International's Touchstone Consulting Group and serving as a Manager at Arthur Andersen LLP and several other small DC-based consulting firms.

He holds an MS from Catholic University and a BS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Virginia. He lives in Alexandria, VA with his wife and four kids.





**Roxann Crawford** (Disability Integration Specialist, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 9)

Roxann Crawford serves as the Disability Integration Specialist for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX. She serves as the lead expert principal advisor ensuring a fully inclusive federal response, including accessible communication, programmatic access, and physical accessibility for all residents impacted by disasters.

Roxann partners with all federal program areas to educate and foster a whole community response that is fully inclusive of the needs of people with disabilities and provides direct programmatic and process review to create more inclusive and fully accessible options during disaster response and recovery, identifying barriers, and finding solutions.



**Grady Joseph** (Assistant Director, Logistics Management, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services)

Grady Joseph is the Assistant Director of Logistics Management at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. In this role Grady oversees the state's disaster logistics capabilities, including commodity stockpile and distribution network, business services, and many major technology modernization initiatives.

Prior to this role, Grady served as the Assistant Director of Recovery Operations at Cal OES, Deputy Program Manager for Recovery at Serco North America, and several operations roles at FEMA where he supported communities impacted by disaster throughout the nation.



**Dr. Chris Rodriguez** (Director, Washington, D.C., Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, Secretary, Big City Emergency Managers)

Dr. Christopher Rodriguez is the Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA). In this role, Dr. Rodriguez serves as the Homeland Security Advisor and State Coordinating Officer for the District of Columbia. He also is the State Administrative Agent for all homeland security federal grants awarded to the District and the National Capital Region which includes parts of Northern Virginia and Maryland. HSEMA is responsible for emergency planning, preparedness, response, and recovery for the City, including operations for a 24-hour emergency operations center and the District's intelligence fusion center. Additionally, he has supported Mayor Muriel Bowser as Incident Commander for some of the District's most complex, simultaneous emergency responses between COVID-19, First Amendment demonstrations, election security, the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, and the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

Prior to HSEMA, Dr. Rodriguez served as Director of New Jersey's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness from 2014-17, where he led statewide strategies, policies, and operations on counterterrorism, resiliency, and cybersecurity.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, he joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), where he became a senior analyst in its Counterterrorism Center.

Dr. Rodriguez received a BA from Williams College and an MA and PhD in political science from the University of Notre Dame.



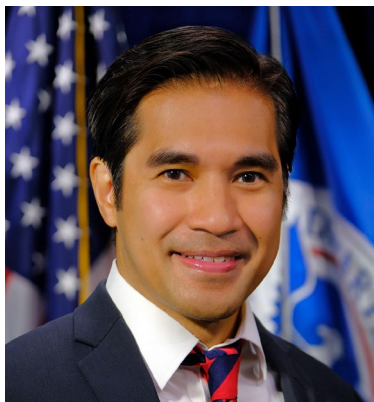
**Julie Reiskin** (Executive Director, Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition)

Julie Reiskin is the Executive Director of the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC). CCDC advocates for social justice for people with all types of disabilities. Ms. Reiskin provides consulting with organizations seeking to improve, expand or enhance their ability to effectively practice real and meaningful client/constituent engagement at all levels of the organization. She also helps organizations develop disability cultural competence. CCDC is a leading disability rights organization whose unique model of blending legal and non-attorney advocacy has achieved results for thousands of Coloradoans with disabilities. With a motto of "Nothing About Us Without Us---Ever", CCDC has led the way in citizen or "client" engagement and CCDC trained advocates permeate the Colorado public policy arena. In 2010, Ms. Reiskin was appointed by President Obama to serve on the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation as the client representative. In 2018, she was elected to serve on the Board of the ACLU of Colorado and is currently Chair of the Board. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees for the Denver Foundation and Treasurer of the National Pain Advocacy Center. Ms. Reiskin is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Denver at the Graduate School of Social Work acting as a field liaison and teaching macro practice social work. Ms. Reiskin has her MSW and BS from the University of Connecticut.

## Day 2

### Keynote Address:

**Jason Lagria** (Acting Director, Office of Disability Integration and Coordination, Federal Emergency Management Agency)



Jason T. Lagria is the Acting Director of the Office of Disability Integration & Coordination (ODIC). Mr. Lagria most recently served as an Attorney Advisor within the FEMA Office of Chief Counsel, where he was embedded counsel for ODIC and the Office of Equal Rights (OER). In 2021, he also served as Acting Deputy Director for OER.

Since joining FEMA in 2019 Mr. Lagria has provided critical counsel to advance and ensure equity and civil rights across FEMA's programs and was awarded the 2020 Secretary's Award for Diversity Management for providing legal advice to uphold civil rights and civil liberties in FEMA's COVID-19 response efforts.

Prior to joining FEMA, Mr. Lagria served as a Special Assistant at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights where he coordinated investigations into violations and enforcement of our nation's civil rights laws. He was also a Senior Staff Attorney at Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC and began his legal career as a litigation associate with Milbank LLP.

Mr. Lagria graduated from George Washington University Law School and Johns Hopkins University. Raised in Houston, TX, he currently lives in Maryland with his wife and two daughters.

## Panel III: Inclusive Sheltering Operations – Integrating the Whole Community

Summary: Emergency managers, social service, and non-profits discuss the need, and practice, of establishing “general population” shelters that welcome and accommodate the whole community.



*Moderator/Panel Organizer:* **Lewis Krauss** (Co-Director, Pacific ADA Center)

Lewis Kraus is the Co-Director of the Pacific ADA Center. Mr. Kraus has been the content leader of Emergency Management and the ADA for the ADA National Network, including creating and running the monthly Emergency Management and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities webinar series for over 9 years.

Mr. Kraus has also led research into the issues of people with disabilities and disasters, the most recent of which resulted in a journal paper on Emergency Management and the ADA published in the Journal of Emergency Management in 2021.



**Denise Everhart** (Division Disaster Executive, Pacific Division, American Red Cross)

Denise C. Everhart has been with the American Red Cross since 2013 and has been the Division Disaster Executive for the Pacific Division since 2015. The Pacific Division consists of California, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and CNMI. Denise leads and manages the team responsible for the implementation of disaster services programs throughout the division, ensuring disaster services (Prepare, Respond, and Recover) are delivered in a rapid and accessible manner, meeting the urgent needs of clients.

In her time at the Red Cross, she has responded and led over 50 disaster operations including the Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Michael, Typhoons Gita, Soudelor and Yutu, The 2017 and the 2018, 2020 California Wildfires, including the Camp Fire and the 2020 Oregon Wildfires.

Prior to her time at the American Red Cross she served for 9 years as an External Affairs Officer for FEMA Region X, responsible for Congressional, Intergovernmental, Tribal, Public/Private Sector Affairs, and Community Relations. During this time she responded to Presidentially declared disasters in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington for FEMA Region X as well as nationally to over 30 disasters, including Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Ike, Cedar Rapids flooding, Alabama Tornadoes and Hurricane Sandy.

Mrs. Everhart also served as a volunteer Lieutenant Firefighter and EMT at the Molalla Rural Fire Protection District #73 in Molalla, OR for 18 years and is still a current Oregon EMT.





**Jim House** (Disability Integration Manager, Washington State Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning)

Jim House is the Disability Integration Manager for the Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP) at the Washington State Independent Living Council. CIEP is a statewide advisory group that focuses on effective communications, programmatic and physical access, and other functional access needs and issues impacting people with disabilities in emergencies.

As a subject matter expert, Jim participates in several forums covering access issues with Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) during disasters.



**J.R. Antablian** (Chief, Disaster Services Branch, California Department of Social Services)

J.R. Antablian serves as the Chief for the Disaster Services Branch (DSB) within the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). As the lead for Mass Care and Shelter in California he strongly believes that there is an inherent value embedded in the culture of this State to assist each other during times of need.

J.R. has over fifteen years of Emergency Management experience, beginning his civil service career in 2008 at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, now the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). While at Cal OES, J.R. participated in numerous disaster activations and assisted statewide with disaster response.

J.R. graduated from the California State University, Chico with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science Legal Studies and earning two minors in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Business Administration. In addition, J.R. attended the California State University, Sacramento and earned a certificate in Crime and Intelligence.

In J.R.'s free time he enjoys spending time with his family and traveling.



**Rocky Vaz** (Director, Office of Emergency Management, City of Dallas)

Rocky Vaz is Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) for the City of Dallas. As a member of the Executive Management Team, Mr. Vaz coordinates the City's Emergency Management programs. He is responsible for oversight of the City's efforts to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made disasters. In this capacity, Mr. Vaz is also responsible for managing homeland security grant programs administered by the City, including the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The City has received over \$120 million in federal grant programs to improve the City's resilience to natural and man-made disasters.

Under his leadership, the City of Dallas has achieved full accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), the second largest City in the nation to receive this accreditation. Mr. Vaz has overseen the expansion of Dallas Alert, the City's emergency notification system, and a city-wide community preparedness initiative meant to educate Dallas residents about the hazards they may face and empower them to be prepared.

During his tenure, Mr. Vaz has successfully coordinated the City's response to several large-scale event/disasters. Most recently, Mr. Vaz managed the Emergency Operations Center during the 2014 Ebola event, the 2015 Flooding, 2016 Police shooting in Downtown Dallas, 2016 Mega Shelter Operations for Hurricane Harvey Evacuees, the 2016 Natural Gas Explosion and evacuations, 2018 F3 tornado and ongoing COVID-19 response.

Before his appointment, Mr. Vaz worked in the City's Intergovernmental Services Department, where he managed the City-wide Fund Development/Grants section. In this role he was responsible for applying for the grants, creating the homeland security division grant monitoring processes and protocols, and completing federal reporting requirements.

## **Panel IV: Active Shooter Awareness – An Inclusive Path to Promoting Safety in an Active Shooter Environment**

*Summary:* Emergency managers, law enforcement, and safety officers discuss inclusive best practices, lessons learned, and collaborative planning for inclusive active shooter awareness and response



*Moderator/Panel Organizer:* **Anne Marie McLaughlin** (Director of Emergency Management and Continuity, New York University)

Anne-Marie McLaughlin is the Director of Emergency Management and Continuity at NYU. She has developed, conducted and/or evaluated dozens of university emergency exercises, including functional and full-scale active threat, Emergency Dispensing Site, and Public Affairs exercises.

Anne-Marie's certifications include the CEM, MEP, CBCP and CBCI. She holds two Master's Degrees, one in Business Continuity Management from Norwich University and one in English from the University of Massachusetts Boston. Anne-Marie is a graduate of Harvard University's National Preparedness Leadership Initiative.

Prior to joining NYU in February of 2018, Anne-Marie served as the Emergency Manager at the University of Massachusetts Boston where she assisted with full-scale SWAT and police response exercises conducted by the Massachusetts State Police, Massachusetts Department of Transportation/Transit Police, and Urban Shield exercises held in Boston.

Anne-Marie is the Chair of the IAEM Accessibility and Whole Community Inclusion Caucus and Vice Chair of the Universities and Colleges Caucus.



**L. Vance Taylor** (Chief, Office of Access and Functional Needs, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services)

Luis "Vance" Taylor is the Chief of the Office of Access and Functional Needs at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Vance is responsible for ensuring the needs of individuals with disabilities and persons with access or functional needs are identified before, during and after disasters and integrated into the State's emergency management systems.

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Vance was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy as a child and uses a power wheelchair. He has worked in Washington, D.C. as an advisor for two different members of Congress, directed security policy at a national water association and been a principal at a top-ranked homeland security and emergency management consulting firm. Vance is a nationally recognized public speaker and advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Vance has a Master's degree in homeland security from the University of Connecticut and an undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in communications. He is married to his sweetheart, Casey, and they have two wonderful daughters.

Vance and his family live in Rancho Cordova, CA.



**Mark Sloan** (Coordinator, Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Harris County, Texas & Chair of Big City Emergency Managers)

Mark Sloan is the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Coordinator for Harris County, serving over 4.8 million incredibly diverse residents covering more than 1,770 square miles. To meet the growing expectations of emergency management, Mr. Sloan is streamlining regional emergency response coordination through the integration of automated flood warning systems, traffic management systems, broadcast media capabilities, first responder and community alerting, GIS mapping systems and regional interoperable communications. In 2022, Mr. Sloan was asked to serve on the Department of Homeland Security First Responder Resource Group representing the national Emergency Management discipline discussing potential needs of Emergency Managers and the other first responder disciplines. Mr. Sloan is a board member of both the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council, Big City Emergency Managers and serves as the County representative to TranStar's Executive Committee. He is also member of the San Jacinto Type III All-Hazards Incident Management Team.





**Donald O'Keefe** (Chief of Law Enforcement, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services)

In 2022, Chief O'Keefe was appointed by California Governor Gavin Newsom to be the Chief of the Law Enforcement Branch of the Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. In that role, Chief O'Keefe is responsible for coordinating all law enforcement mutual aid within the State of California, to include deploying mutual aid assets to disaster scenes for site security, traffic control, and evacuations. Other responsibilities include providing trained search & rescue personnel to locate missing and lost individuals and coordinating State Coroners and Medical Examiners at mass fatality events. Chief O' Keefe manages the Public Safety Procurement Program ( 10-33 excess military equipment) for all California Law Enforcement Agencies. Finally, Chief O'Keefe is the Governor's point person on authorizing the deployment of the California National Guard to law enforcement related incidents.

Prior to Chief O'Keefe's tenure with CalOES, he was the United States Marshal for the Northern District of California (2010-2021, having been appointed by President Barack Obama on August 11, 2010, after receiving unanimous consent from the United States Senate. In his role, Chief O'Keefe was responsible for the management, administration, and direction of operations throughout the Northern District of California. His overall responsibilities included protecting the United States Courts and federal judiciary, criminal investigations, executions of federal court orders, fugitive apprehension programs, and other law enforcement activities.

Chief O'Keefe was also the Police Chief for the City of Half Moon Bay, California. He was responsible for public safety, emergency management, and the overall



effectiveness of the Police Department. Chief O'Keefe became an integral part of the city management team, serving on occasions as the Acting City Manager. Chief O'Keefe was also Secretary of the San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association, and a region representative to the California Police Chiefs Association.

Chief O'Keefe started his law enforcement career with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office ( 1980-2007) before retiring at the rank of Captain. Chief O' Keefe was assigned to administration, uniform patrol, investigations, narcotics, court security, homeland security, and corrections during his career.

Chief O'Keefe holds a bachelor's degree in Human Services from the College of Notre Dame in Belmont, CA, and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco. Chief O'Keefe is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Naval Post Graduate School, POST Command College, National Executive Institute, and LAPD's West point Leadership Program.



**Aaron Carruthers** (Executive Director, California State Council on Developmental Disabilities)

Aaron Carruthers is the Executive Director of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. He has worked in civil rights policy and programs for over twenty years, including as an appointee of two Governors, for California's Attorney General, and in the State Senate. He is currently carrying out the Council's goals: housing, employment, and safety. This includes over 25,000 vaccines, 385,000 test kits, and 106,000,000 pieces of PPE, along with phasing out subminimum wage and securing \$700,000,000 in rent subsidies.

Last year, SCDD's work impacted more than 2.4 million Californians and it was named Employer of the Year for people with disabilities. He is a child of parents with developmental and other disabilities, is a person with disabilities, and is the parent of young man with disabilities.

Aaron is a graduate of the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities and was a Coro Fellow in Public Affairs.